THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SATURDAY • MARCH 30, 2024 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

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INDIA-UKRAINE AGREE TO RESTORE PRE-CONFLICT COOPERATION LEVEL

Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba said he had comprehensive talks with India about the situation in 'our regions', global security

PEACE FORMULA FOR UKRAINE DISCUSSED

Kuleba, who is in India on a two-day official visit, wrote on X, "We paid specific attention to the Peace Formula and next steps on the path of its implementation." The peace formula, first mooted by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in 2022, is a set of principles aimed at ensuring a just and lasting peace for his country

BOTH NATIONS TO MEET AGAIN THIS YEAR

- Both the countries agreed to work towards holding the 7th Inter-Governmental Commission meeting on trade, economic, scientific, technical, industrial and cultural cooperation later this year
- India's foreign minister S Jaishankar wrote on X, "Our immediate goal is to get trade back to earlier levels" | P9

99

DRONES, MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED IN UKRAINE ON FRIDAY BY RUSSIA

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Tax terror, says Congress as it gets notice for over ₹1,800 cr

Govt weaponised income tax dept to harass the principal opposition party, claims Kharge

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Friday said it got a fresh income tax notice asking it to pay ₹1,823 crore, triggering angry reactions from party leaders who described it as 'tax terrorism' aimed at financially crippling the main opposition party ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. They said the party will hold massive protests across states on Saturday against the "egregious attack on democracy and imposition of tax terrorism".

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi said such assault on democracy is unpardonable and 'exemplary action' will be taken against those responsible when the government changes.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the BJP-led government is misusing all federal agencies to subvert democracy and belittle the Constitution. The government has weaponised the I-T department to harass the principal opposition party, he charged.

Accusing the Narendra Modi government of selectively targeting opposition parties, Congress treasurer Ajay Maken said if the I-T department applies the same principle to all parties, then it should demand ₹4,600 crore from the BJP because it is a bigger violator.

"We have analysed all the submissions of the BJP to the Election Commission. The party has faltered every year," Maken claimed. "I-T department has so far forcibly taken ₹135 crore from our bank accounts against an alleged violation of ₹14 lakh. This amount was recovered by freezing over ₹270 crore in our bank accounts... If the same principles are applied on violations by the BJP, the I-T department should raise a demand of ₹4,600 for the party and act swiftly like it had done in the case of Congress," he added.

AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the BJP's attempts to weaken the Opposition won't work as the party's morale is high. "We will continue contesting elections passionately," he said at a press conference. Rebutting the charges, the BJP said the Congress is not above the laws of the land. "A certain family of the Congress believes that they should be exempted from rules and that special laws should apply to them. It is not feasible in modern India," BJP national spokesperson Zafar Islam said.

REACTIONS

When the govt changes, action will be taken against those who have disrobed democracy. Such exemplary action will be taken that no one will dare to do all this again

Rahul Gandhi

₹4,600 Cr penalty overlooked for BJP's ₹42 Cr unaccounted deposit, while ₹135 Cr penalty is demanded for ₹14 lakh cash deposit by Cong MLAs & MPs!

Mallikarjun Kharge

FINMIN DEFENDS IT, SAYS BASED ON 2019 SEIZURES

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

JUSTIFYING the income tax notices issued to the Congress, finance ministry sources said the tax department had reopened assessments of the party for seven years (from AY 2014-15 to AY 2020-21) on the basis of incriminating material seized during search operations conducted in April 2019.

Two Delhi High Court orders, dated 22 March and 28 March 2024, allowed the reassessment. "Notices under Section 153C of Income Tax Act were issued in March 2023. The assessment proceedings for these seven years were getting time-barred on 31 March 2024 as per law," said a senior official.

The Congress had approached the HC for quashing of reassessment under Section 153C for all the seven years but it dismissed the writs. The HC in its order observed that there was an evasion of ₹520 crore income. "In its order, the HC held that the tax department has substantial and concrete evidence warranting further scrutiny under the IT Act. The HC further observed that the satisfaction note details the unaccounted transactions with reference to various elections," the source said.

Another official told *TNIE* that sufficient time was given to the party to reply, especially on various observations of the HC. "After considering all the replies, the department has now completed the assessment of seven years."

In an issue pertaining to AY 2018-19, the Congress faced the withdrawal of exemption under Section 13A of the IT Act due to violations of mandatory conditions. Despite multiple communications and rejection of stay applications, the party failed to comply with the tax demand.

As per sources, recovery proceedings were initiated, resulting in the recovery of around ₹135 crore. The I-T Appellate Tribunal and the Delhi HC upheld the decision.

CPI gets tax notice for ₹11 crore dues

THE CPI has received a notice from the income tax department demanding ₹11 cr 'dues' for using an old PAN card while filing tax returns during the last few years. The amount includes penalties and interest due to "discrepancies" in the use of an old PAN card. Earlier, the I-T department had withdrawn the tax exemption of the CPI(M) for 2016-17 and taxed it ₹15.59 crore for not declaring a bank account. Besides, TMC's Saket Gokhale claimed he got 11 I-T notices in the last 72 hours

B'LURU CAFE BLAST

NIA announces ₹10L bounty for info on each accused, releases new photos

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

A day after arresting Muzammil Shareef -- the key conspirator in The Rameshwaram Cafe blast case -- the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday issued photographs and details of the main accused, Mussavir Hussain Shazib (30), and another key conspirator, Abdul Matheen Taha (30), and also announced Rs 10 lakh reward for credible information leading to the arrest of each.

Shazib alias Shazeb alias Md Juned Hussain alias Mohammed Juned Sayed is a resident of Masjid Road, Thirthahalli, Shivamogga. "He is fair, tall and has a gym-type body. He has been using forged driving licence in the name of Mohammed Juned Sayed or other similar forged

Mussavir Shazib

Abdul Taha

ID documents to conceal his identity. His preferred clothing is jeans and T-shirts, wears a black smart watch, mask, wig and fake beard. Shazib stays in boys hostels, PG accomodations and low-budget hotels and lodgings," the NIA has stated.

On Taha, the NIA stated that he uses Hindu names like Vignesh and Sumit; is medium built and bald from front. "He prefers wearing jeans, T-shirt, caps, hoodies, mask and fake beard. Taha also stays in men's hostels and low-budget accomodations," NIA stated. This is the second time that the NIA has announced a bounty on Taha. In May 2020, the Central agency had announced a reward of Rs 3 lakh on information leading to his arrest in the Al-Hind IS Bengaluru module case (RC-4/2020/NIA/DLI), which is said to be behind the murder of a Hindu leader in Tamil Nadu.

The Bengaluru-based Al Hind IS module, which is active in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, was allegedly put together by Mehboob Pasha, a resident of Gurappana Palya, Bengaluru and Khaja Moideen, a resident of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, who are accused in some murder cases of Hindutva leaders in Tamil Nadu. CONTINUED ON: P3

Former CM Basavaraj Bommai, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra, JDS state chief H D Kumaraswamy, former CM BS Yediyurappa, former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda and Leader of Opposition R Ashoka at a BJP-JDS coordination meeting in Bengaluru on Friday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

It's HDK from Mandya, Mallesh from Kolar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER chief minister and JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy will contest the Lok Sabha elections from Mandya, the regional party announced on Friday.

HD Revanna's son and incumbent MP Prajwal Revanna will seek reelection from Hassan, while M Mallesh Babu will be the candidate from Kolar.

As part of its alliance with the BJP, the JDS got three seats Hassan, Mandya, and Kolar. The BJP has already announced its candidates for 25 seats.

BJP-JDS leaders have held a series of meetings to ensure proper coordination between the leaders and workers at all levels.

While Prajwal's candidature was already decided, all eyes were on Mandya. In 2019, Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil lost against Sumalatha Ambareesh, who had contested as an independent candidate backed by BJP.

While JDS has a strong base in the district, the BJP's support will be crucial for the party.

In Kolar, JDS candidate Mallesh will be hoping to make the most of the differences among the local Congress leaders that has delayed the announcement of the candidate. Mallesh had contested Assembly polls from Bangarpet and lost by a narrow margin.

Kolar ticket: CM, DCM push for neutral candidate as minister hardens stand

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

WITH Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa hardening his stand on a ticket for his son-in-law Chikkapeddanna from the Kolar Lok Sabha constituency, it has become difficult for Congress to resolve the imbroglio.

It was only earlier this week that five Congress legislators, opposed to Muniyappa's plan and followers of former speaker KR Ramesh Kumar, had gone to the Vidhana Soudha and threatened to quit their positions if the ticket is given to Chikkdapeddanna and have also made it clear that they will not work for the party if Muniyappa's son-in-law is picked. They want an SC right candidate.

But Muniyappa stuck to his guns on Friday. If any other candidate is picked, he will face trouble, he warned. There is talk now of Congress leaders choosing KV Goutham, an SC left candidate.

"The situation has still not reached a flashpoint. If Ramesh Kumar and I are united, we can win both Kolar and Chikkaballapur LS seats," Muniyappa said. He also claimed that he is ready to reconcile with Ramesh Kumar and had even visited the latter's house, but could not meet him.

Claiming that he is a disciplined soldier of the party, Muniyappa took a dig at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, saying they are not large-hearted enough to resolve the Kolar ticket issue. "There will be negotiation for other seats, but why is it not possible only in Kolar," he asked. P4

Cong list out for 3 seats

Congress on Friday declared its candidates for three seats, but withheld decision on the Kolar seat. Sunil Bose, son of minister Dr HC Mahadevappa, got the ticket for Chamarajanagar seat, Raksha Ramaiah from Chikkaballapura and Sanduru MLA E Tukaram from Ballari | P4

EXPRESS READ

10 killed after SUV falls into gorge in J&K

Jammu: Ten people were killed after an SUV skidded off the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and fell into a gorge in Ramban district on Friday. The vehicle was on the way to Jammu from Srinagar when it fell into a 300-foot gorge at the Battery Cheshma area around 1.15 am. The bodies of nine passengers and the driver have been recovered.

Indian Navy trying to rescue hijacked vessel

New Delhi: The Indian Navy on Friday said it is currently engaged in an operation to rescue a hijacked Iranian fishing vessel, which was reportedly boarded by nine armed pirates. Based on inputs about a potential piracy incident on board Iranian fishing vessel 'Al Kambar 786' on Thursday late evening, two Indian naval ships were diverted to intercept the hijacked vessel.

Buzz on wife Sunita's elevation as Delhi CM in place of Kejriwal

ANUP VERMA @ New Delhi

HAVING held three press conferences in a week following the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), his proactive wife Sunita is being seen as a possible candidate for elevation as the CM.

Though the AAP insists that Kejriwal will run the government from jail, its dismissal based on Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena's recommendation cannot be ruled out.

Saxena has already said he would not allow the state government to be run from jail. It was read as an advice to Kejriwal to install a new person at the helm; else the Centre could invoke Article 239AB of the Constitution to impose President's Rule. This Article was incorporated specifically for the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It is similar to Article 356. Article 239AB allows the L-G to recommend Central rule by suspending the House.

File picture of Sunita Kejriwal

United Nations weighs in

A spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the global body hoped people's "political and civil rights" are protected and everyone is able to vote in a free and fair atmosphere, in the wake Kejriwal's arrest

Sunita on Friday initiated a 'Kejriwal *ko Aashirwad*' campaign, sharing two WhatsApp numbers for his supporters to send their messages irrespective of gender, age, financial status and party affiliation.

Analysts saw in her press meets an indication of her possible bigger role. That she sat on the chair Kejriwal used to occupy at home during his public interactions did not go unnoticed. Sunita is a former IRS officer with 22 years of experience in service.

The BJP, however, mocked it, with Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri comparing Sunita with former Bihar CM Rabri Devi, saying she is perhaps preparing to hold the post of her husband.

TOP OF THE PICK

IIMB students get big offers, median salary at ₹32.5L

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

OVER 500 students from the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B) were successfully placed in 163 companies during the placement season this year. While 487 students will work in India, 29 have been placed abroad with Infosys Consulting (seven), Strategy and Middle East (six), Jindal Shadeed (five), TransformationX (three), EY Parthenon Singapore (two), JP Morgan Chase London (two), Health City Cayman Islands (two), Fast Retailing, Japan (one) and Landmark Group, Middle East (one) selecting the students. The median salary stood at Rs 32.5 lakh per annum. The students had enrolled into the Post Graduate Programme in Business Analytics (PGPBA) and Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) for 2024.

Of the 516 offers made, most came from consulting firms, selecting 218 students and 81 from finance, banking and investment sectors. Ganesh N Prabhu, Chairperson, Career Development Services, IIM-B said, "In a difficult placement year, we are immensely grateful to Accenture as they reposed confidence in IIM-B students by making a record of 58 offers across its three units – Global Networks, India Markets Unit and Data & AI."

IT and e-commerce firms made 49 offers each, manufacturing and infrastructure firms 36 offers, conglomerates 30 and consumer goods and retail firms 28. Also, analytics and AI firms made 13 offers and healthcare-related companies 12 offers.

Some of the companies that came for the placement season included Accenture Global Networks, McKinsey, Boston Consulting Group, PwC Consulting, TCS Management Consulting, Bain & Company, EY India, Deloitte and many more. Finance firms such as Goldman Sachs, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, CitiBank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and other multinational companies too selected candidates. From among tech companies, Microsoft, HCL Tech, Salesforce, Tech Mahindra and Unacademy picked students.

Eight conglomerates, like Adani Group, Reliance Industries, Vedanta, Air India, CK Birla Group, Aditya Birla Group, Tata Administrative Services and Mahindra & Mahindra made 30 offers.

B'luru records 36.4°C, highest in last five years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BENGALURU city on Friday recorded a maximum temperature of 36.4 degrees Celsius, which is the highest in the last five years. According to IMD, this is the fourth highest in the last 15 years and third highest in the last 10 years.

IMD has also issued a heatwave warning across Karnataka for the next three days. In Kalaburagi and Bagalkot, the maximum temperature was 40.9 and 40.6 degrees Celsius, respectively. A yellow alert has been issued for Kalaburagi, Raichur, Vijayapura, Yadgir, Bagalkot and Koppal.

"A heatwave alert and warning has been issued for March 29-31. There will also be a 2-3 degrees Celsius rise across interior Karnataka and a heatwave warning has also been issued for most parts of the state," the IMD official said.

The all-time record for Bengaluru is 38.9 degrees Celsius, recorded on March 22, 1931.

ALMANAC TODAY

Saturday: 30/03/2024 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Phalguna • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Panchami 5.17 pm • Nakshatra: Anuradha 6.31 pm • Moon in Dhanur Rashi • Rahukaala: 09:00 am to 10:30 am • Gulikakala: 06:00 am to 07:30 am • Yamaganda: 01:49 pm to 03:26 pm

WEATHER — MIN 21°C | MAX 35°C — FORECAST: Sunny

Sunrise 06.17 am | Sunset 06.31 pm | Moonrise 10.48 pm | Moonset 09.28 am

EXCISE TO KEEP EYE ON DAILY LIQUOR SALES

Dept also planning to cap maximum sales per person till end of elections; 31.79% rise in seizures in just 10 days

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

WITH the Lok Sabha elections on the horizon, the excise department and Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL) are keeping an eye on the daily liquor sales and stocks. Along with this, the department is also thinking of capping the maximum sales per person till the elections are over.

As per data from the office of the chief electoral officer (CEO), there has already been a 31.79% rise in seizures of liquor in just 10 days from the imposition of the model code of conduct.

According to the data, from March 10, 2019, to March 24, 2019, election officials had seized 4.90 lakh litres of liquor worth Rs 19.88 crore.

This year, from March 16-26, 8.40 lakh litres worth Rs 26.20 crore has already been seized. "There has already been a 31.79% rise in seizures and on a daily basis, the seizures are rising. Till March 29, 2024, 8,63,337.38 litres worth Rs 27,27,59,762 has been seized," an election official said.

In fact, even before the model code of conduct was imposed, from August 1, 2023, to March 14, 2024, the department had seized 7,79,062 litres worth Rs 40.74 crore.

The MSIL head office in Bengaluru is keeping an online check on the sales figures on a daily basis. "We are not permitting any bulk liquor sales for any occasion. As per rules, a maximum of 4.5 litre per person can be sold. With the rise in seizures and demand for liquor, we are thinking of reducing the per person liquor sales further till the elections are over. It is only still in discussion stage," said an official from MSIL.

Another official from the department said in the coming days, daily liquor sale figures from bars and other sales outlets will be procured. "We have an average daily report of sales. We also have prepared an estimation chart of the rise in sale figures. It is expected that there will be a rise in liquor sales, but we do not want any untoward incidents to happen," the official added.

As per the CEO office report released on Friday, the department seized 7,344 litres of IML worth Rs 29,50,486 in KSBCL Depo, APMC Yard, Sirsi, Uttara Kannada district. Since the officials found a mismatch in excise adhesive labels affixed on the carton boxes and liquor which were being supplied from Hassan district, an FIR was also filed.

Similarly, the department officials on election duty also seized 8,970 litres of beer worth Rs 29,92,910 in KSBCL Depot 2 in Whitefield, Bengaluru, and filed FIRs.

Under scanner

- Total liquor seized **8,63,337.38** litre
- **WORTH: ₹27,27,59,762**
- **CASES:** 974 heinous, 884 breach of licence conditions, 50 NDPS and 3,682 under Section 15(a) of Karnataka Excise Act, 1965

MERCURY RISES

Summer heat spikes waterborne diseases in children by 30-50%

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

AS the summer heat intensifies and water scarcity worsens, cases of waterborne diseases in children have gone up by 30-50% in the last week. The problem of not having enough water becomes more serious with people in many areas struggling with not having clean drinking water.

Dr Suchismitha Rajamanya, Lead Consultant and HoD of Internal Medicine at Aster Hospital, said, "Around 1-2 inpatient admissions are recorded due to waterborne diseases.

Patients typically show symptoms like nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, fever and dehydration. The severity of these symptoms varies, influenced by the degree of contamination and the individual's immune response."

She added that the root cause lies in the potential contamination of water used for cooking or drinking, which may harbour harmful germs. These pathogens have the potential to cause severe illnesses, particularly if they contaminate the food.

Food poisoning cases are particularly prominent during the summer months due to warmer temperatures, which accelerate bacterial growth and elevate the risk of food contamination, she explained and emphasised that the most effective preventive measure is to boil water and ensure that the water source for consumption is safe and uncontaminated.

Dr Shruthi Badarinath Pranav, Consultant, Paediatric Gastroenterology at Sparsh Hospital, said, "The surge in waterborne disease affecting children by 30-50% is attributed to the hot and dusty conditions that facilitate the spread of diseases prevalent in such weather."

She added that many of these illnesses, transmitted through water, range from mild to potentially fatal if not promptly or properly treated. Inadequate sanitation contributes to the spread of diseases like dysentery, cholera and hepatitis A.

Children, being more susceptible to stomach illnesses caused by contaminated water, may experience symptoms such as fever, nausea and vomiting. Ensuring access to clean water for drinking and everyday use is crucial to maintain good health.

DOS AND DON'TS

- Ensure water safety by boiling it.
- Clean containers and water cans before using them for water storage.
- Be vigilant for symptoms such as vomiting, fever, or stomach ache, and seek medical attention if the symptoms continue.
- Refrain from consuming outside food unless it is thoroughly boiled or well-cooked.

Victoria Hospital's free bariatric surgery gets lukewarm response

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE free bariatric surgery offered by Victoria Hospital saw hardly any takers. Since 2018, the hospital has performed just 250 surgeries. The treatment for obesity through bariatric surgery ranges between Rs 15 and 20 lakh at private institutions while Victoria offers it for free for BPL cardholders but charges a flat Rs 15,000 for others.

Dr Deepak S, medical superintendent at Victoria Hospital, said, "The hospital has performed approximately 245 surgeries, including one with the highest BMI of 64.4 (140 kg). The techniques, which vary as per a patient's needs, and the instruments used, are on par with those available at private set-ups, nationally and internationally."

Dr Prem Kumar A, professor and head of Minimal Invasive Surgery (MIS) at the Department of Surgery, said, "Obesity is frequently viewed more as a physical condition resulting from overeating rather than as a disease. However, while overeating plays a role, hormonal imbalance is often the primary cause. Many individuals do not seek treatment for obesity due to a lack of awareness about available options. Instead, they typically opt for exercise and diet regimens over undergoing bariatric surgery."

Dr Kumar explained that the majority of patients seek treatment without initially acknowledging their obesity as a concern, often only addressing it after dealing with other health issues. For instance, patients are referred from the pulmonology department due to breathing issues caused by excessive body fat. Similarly, patients are referred from orthopaedics and cardiac departments.

Many individuals attribute weight gain to a lack of physical activity following which they adopt multiple exercise and diet routines. However, it is important to know that bodies with Body Mass Index or BMI (a measure used to assess an individual's body weight relative to their height) over 35 cannot typically achieve fitness through diet and exercise alone. A balanced diet and regular exercise are not sufficient to address obesity, Dr Kumar added.

Dr Sujatha further stressed on the critical need for awareness in preventing obesity and managing it through interventions like bariatric surgery.

HOLY DAY

Christian devotees watch a re-enactment of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday at St Theresa's Church in Bengaluru | ALLENEGENUSE J

PILOT PROJECT

Now, you can buy unreserved train tickets via UPI

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

IN the first such initiative in Bengaluru Railway Division, UPI enabled payment to purchase unreserved tickets has been launched on a pilot basis at one of the counters of KSR railway station. The response has been overwhelming and the system will be replicated at Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru Cantonment and Sir M Visvesvaraiah Terminal stations shortly. The only mode of payment accepted so far for open tickets was cash, said a senior railway official.

"Due to the last-minute rush and long queues to buy unreserved tickets, accepting payment through credit or debit cards would delay the process for all," he explained. Counter No 8 of the UTS office located at the main entry launched the service on March 2.

Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) on mobiles to purchase e-tickets are quite popular but tickets cannot be booked within 30 metres of the railway station. "This will really help those who do not carry cash on hand but would like to book a ticket inside the station," another official said.

Elaborating on the scenario since its launch, a commercial department staffer said, "When it was launched at the beginning of this month, an average of 70 tickets were booked per day. An average of 450 tickets get booked per day with the daily earnings averaging Rs 80,000. Right now, there is only a board outside the counter announcing it. When public become aware of such an option, booking though this mode will rise exponentially." In future, all the unreserved counters at KSR will have QR code facility," he added.

A person buys a ticket through UPI at KSR Railway Station

TNIE spoke to a few passengers who were booking their ticket through this mode on Friday evening. They were quite impressed with the launch of this facility here.

Prasad Kamath, director at a start-up, Clevertap, in Mumbai was among them. "I found it really useful. I just have Rs 100 in my pocket right now. Enabling this mode of payment permitted me to book my ticket without using my cash. And the process was really quick too."

Sajjan Kumar, a techie heading to Bagalkot, said, "I did not know the facility was available here. I tried it out and found it really quick. The big plus is that one need not carry change or the official too does not have to hand it back to us. It makes it faster for all of us."

Bike-taxis can play key role in public mobility ecosystem in India: Survey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

BIKE-TAXIS can play a significant role in aiding the public mobility ecosystem in India by offering a low-cost low-emission last-mile solution as well as providing livelihood opportunities to several million Indian youth, the latest survey by KPMG reveals.

With insights garnered from over 2,500 bike-taxi drivers, the KPMG study dives deep into the motivations and concerns of those driving this revolution, offering invaluable perspectives for policy makers and industry stakeholders alike. However, the bike-taxi industry faces legitimacy challenges due to the absence of a uniform nation-wide policy structure, the study said.

On the livelihood potential from the bike-taxis, a potential exists to provide livelihood opportunities to 5.4 million bike-taxi drivers by 2030 and the industry has the potential to provide livelihood to approximately five per cent of the estimated 90 million non-farm jobs required by 2030. The survey said approximately 50 per cent of the drivers chose bike-taxi as gig work in addition to their primary occupation. Also, 83 per cent of the drivers were open to paying an annual permit fee of Rs 1,000-1,200 and that KPMG expects 30-35 per cent electric two-wheeler penetration by 2029-2030.

The recent advisory from MoRTH to all states and Union territories to accept and process the application for contract carriage permits for motorcycles should help tackle the subjectivity, the survey said and added that instead of abandoning the concept it would be key to formulating and adopting policies around safety regulations.

Raghavan Viswanathan, associate partner, Automotive and Electric Mobility, KPMG in India, said, "It's time states in India start looking at bike-taxis as a solution rather than a problem to their congestion woes. Bike-taxis can provide an extremely efficient last-mile connectivity option for Metros, many of which are struggling with sub-par utilization."

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

30TH March: This is one of those moments when the stars advise everyone to take a long, cool look at their lives, no matter what their sign. Some people will be making choices, but first the right questions must be asked, so everything and anything is up for grabs. It's a time for wisdom.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
For once your chart favours speculation, so if you're in the mood for a flutter, I can see you coming out on top. It may be an emotional risk that's on your mind, in which case you may proceed with confidence. However, the pre-condition is that you always try to see the world through partners' eyes.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It would be the easiest thing in the world for you to blame other people for current worries. Yet you may be partly responsible yourself, largely on account of your failure to say what you're really feeling. If somebody is to be honest with you, you need to play fair with them.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
It is time once again to don your commander's hat in readiness for the battles to come. You may be very confident, for future conflicts have already been rehearsed. You'll therefore know exactly what's going on before it happens. At least, that's the theory!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
We come round to the time of month when home and family affairs must take the highest priority. Rather than squander a celestial opportunity, you should look around and see what improvements are necessary to maintain harmonious relationships.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It's a time for travel and communication. Pick up that phone, write those letters, take that trip and get in touch. Financial discussions and decisions seem to be crucial. Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, you'll get nowhere unless you've got the facts straight.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You've done well, but it may be some time yet before you are able to pursue your most personal goals. If you're the type to plan ahead, set yourself a nine-month schedule. As for now, just get on and enjoy current relationships for all they're worth.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You're in control today. The only drawback may be a tendency to be rather too emotional. Creative pleasures and social enjoyment both have their place, but deep inside you're looking for something else, something more meaningful. Hang on to your sense of humour.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The general planetary set-up may not be perfect, but it is very fortunate. Be sure to spend as much time as you need by yourself, for your spiritual batteries need recharging. Set your sights on solid long-term improvements at home, and don't let negative attitudes put you off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Throughout the coming months you will have to reform and clarify your opinions and attitudes. Friendly contacts over the next two days will give you an idea of how other people think, so look, listen and learn. You might discover something to your advantage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
It would be wiser to avoid situations which make you tense or uneasy. On the other hand, it is true that the stars are on your side, bringing an air of worthwhile achievement and a feeling of goodwill whenever you take the right steps. Your conscience will be your guide.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You may find it possible to forget about emotional traumas. If so, you're lucky, for it will be easier to relax and enjoy today's positive romantic and social trends. Settle your spending plans over the next few days, and make your intentions abundantly clear.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Thoughts and dreams will merge in your bountiful imagination. You may know what you think, but what do you feel? Today's stars are splendid for all poets and painters but, if you're pursuing practical measures, think before you act, otherwise you'll probably pick up the wrong end of the stick.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

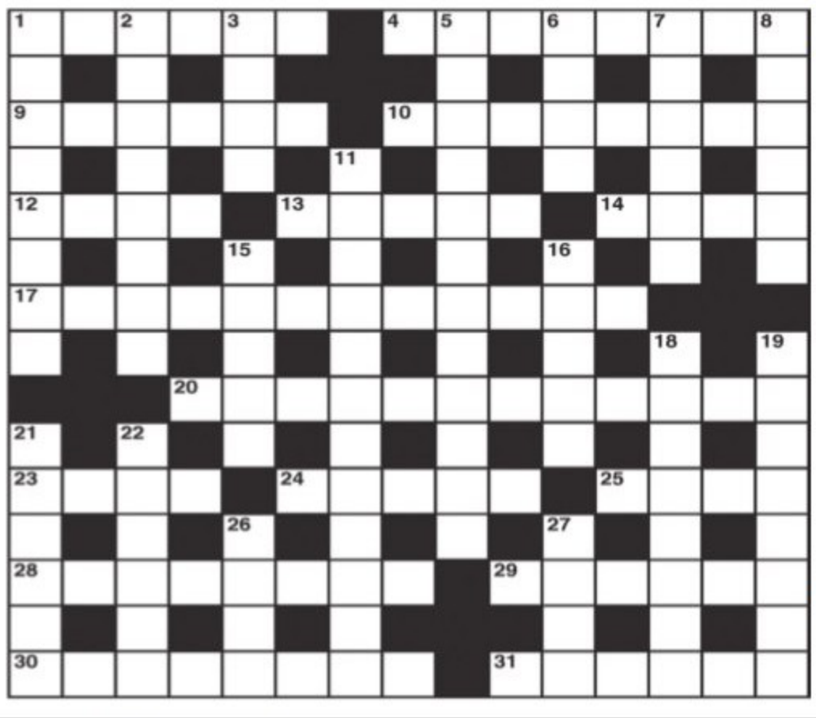
		2	7		4			
					6			
				1	3	8		9
4	2		6	7				5
8	7						2	4
5				8	2		7	6
1		9	3	4				
			5					
			1		8	4		

5	8	4	2	6	1	3	7	9
1	6	3	5	9	7	4	8	2
9	2	7	3	8	4	6	5	1
6	7	1	4	5	8	9	2	3
8	4	9	7	2	3	5	1	6
2	3	5	9	1	6	7	4	8
4	1	6	8	7	9	2	3	5
7	9	2	1	3	5	8	6	4
3	5	8	6	4	2	1	9	7

SUDOKU MEDIUM

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Himalayan turn of phrase (6)
4 Bad route changed, still hard (8)
9 A plush arrangement though only makeshift (4-2)
10 Purchase from bar before time (8)
12 Sounds like a hiding place for money (4)
13 A leak I repaired is much the same (5)
14 Roof party I object to (4)
17 An unexpected blow from an infant maybe (6,6)
20 One's small crowd actor gets a bit more (1,6,5)
23 Placed a cover outside (4)
24 A mob's dispersed for reading lessons (5)
25 Unreal ridicule (4)
28 Hazel's case (8)
29 It's never-ending to be precise about it (6)
30 Being of true race perhaps (8)
31 Coming into season (6)

DOWN

1 An example of bad language (8)
2 Set ideas about part of New York (4,4)
3 Show displeasure when nothing is in place (4)
5 Cheerless prospect of a Dickensian house? (5,7)
6 Doesn't neglect established practices (4)
7 Belligerent woman restricted by two banks (6)
8 Number of the French in uniform (6)
11 Salt grumbles about the vessel (5,7)
15 An author's sources (5)
16 Runs off original files (5)
18 Never meant to; I was upset about it (2,2,4)
19 Position taken by those who are retiring (4,4)
21 Pointless line adopted by forces' boss in hospital (6)
22 Very good quality (6)
26 A very small amount for the time of year (4)
27 Friendly type (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Broth, 4 Discern, 8 Ode, 9 Deduction, 10 Machete, 11 Emie, 13 Remote, 15 Better, 18 Taste, 19 Take out, 21 Mainbrace, 23 Bar, 24 Dungeon, 25 Leers.

Down: 1 Bloomer, 2 Overcomes, 3 Hedge, 4 Dodger, 5 Secrete, 6 Eli, 7 Nonce, 12 No trouble, 14 Tremble, 16 Returns, 17 Strain, 18 Tamed, 20 Kneel, 22 Inn.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

OSIPE

RWCNO

RBUADS

TADBEE

Looks like the Gulf Stream is slowing down.
Let's keep monitoring it to be sure.
BASED ON THEIR MEASUREMENTS, 4.5 MILES PER HOUR WAS THE GULF STREAM'S ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: POUND TIGHT LONELY WILLOW
Answer: To learn about the Mariana Trench, you can go online to — GET THE LOWDOWN

A second-year aviation management student of a city college was arrested on charges of drug peddling on Wednesday. The student, identified as PH Shiva Krishna, has been arrested by CCB sleuths, who raided his house in Gunjur Palya and recovered 5 kg ganja worth Rs 10 lakh. Krishna, a native of Thrissur, came to the city two years ago for education. Falling into bad company, he allegedly started using drugs and also began peddling it

RAMESHWARAM CAFE BLAST HAS A CHIKKAMAGALURU LINK

Resident accused of supplying explosives for making bomb

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chikkamagaluru

THE Rameshwaram Cafe bomb blast incident is believed to have a link with Ayyappanagara in Chikkamagaluru city, with the arrest of suspect Muzamil Sheriff by the National Investigation Assembly (NIA) in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Muzamil is a native of Kalasa, but he has been living with his mother, sister and pregnant wife at Ayyappanagara in the city for the past 6 months. Just a month ago, he had shifted to Bengaluru.

Muzamil is accused of having supplied explosives for making a bomb to Thirthahalli-based bomber Musaveer Hussein and the kingpin Abdul Matheen.

The NIA officials who raided his house have recovered a mobile phone and important electronic gadgets.

Meanwhile, former home minister Arga Jnannedra expressed that it was really a serious issue that the bomber is allege4dly from Thirthahalli, his hometown, which is know for its unique Malnad culture.

Taha close aide of cooker blast accused

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The module was busted by NIA in 2020 and chargesheets were filed in 2021, in which the agency had alleged that the terror module wanted to establish an IS province inside the jungles of South India. Taha is allegedly a close associate of Mohd Shariq -- the main accused in the pressure cooker blast case in Mangaluru in November 2022.

Meanwhile, Shazib and Taha, who are from Thirthahalli, reportedly also have links with Maaz Muneer Ahmed and Syed Yasin, the two engineering graduates, who were arrested by the Shivamogga police on September 23, 2022 in connection with the stabbing incident during communal clashes over the unveiling of poster of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in Shivamogga on August 15, 2022. Ahmed and Yasin reportedly have links with the IS module and had conducted trial bomb blasts along the banks of Tungabhadra river.

Dossier unearthed by Shivamogga cops had details of terror module

A dossier of a terror module unearthed by the Shivamogga police in September 2022 and sent to the Central Intelligence agencies reportedly had given extensive details on the recruitment, financing, indoctrination and training of this module for terrorist activities by a foreign handler. Many members of this alleged module were suspected to be from Thirthahalli in Shivamogga. Some of them were said to be engineering graduates. The handler had reportedly used crypto currency to finance the module.

THE LONG WAIT

A woman carries pots of valuable water home, as more residents queue up with their buckets near a water tanker, in Pattegarapalya, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru on Friday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Retired police officer throws acid-like substance on son over property row

ENS @ Bengaluru

A retired police sub-inspector is accused of throwing acid-like substances on one of his sons, after the latter demanded a share in the property on Monday. Along with the retired PSI, the police have arrested the older son and daughter in connection with the crime.

The accused have been identified as Ramakrishnaiah, a retried PSI, his older son Upendra, and daughter Kalavathi. The victim, Kiran, is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

The incident took place at their residence on March 25, when there was a heated argument between Ramakrishnaiah and Kiran, after the latter demanded a share in the property, which is said to be in T Dasarahalli. During the argument, the retired PSI, Upendra and Kalavathi allegedly threw an acid-like substance at Kiran, injuring him. Kiran was swiftly rushed to a nearby hospital. Due to the strong concentration of the acid-like substance, Kiran in all probability might lose vision in one of his eyes and suffer severe burns on his body, the police said, adding that they are investigating to ascertain what chemical was used in the alleged attack. Based on the victim's complaint, the Bagalagunte police registered a case and arrested the three suspects.

Couple held for bid to murder aunt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 36-year-old woman and her husband were arrested for trying to kill her maternal aunt in RMC Yard police station limits.

Annayamma, who did not have children, had taken care of her niece Sumitra since childhood.

She owned a residential building in Yeshwanthpur and was getting rent from it, so Sumitra and her husband Muniraju (37) planned to kill her and take possession of the property. But Annayamma survived the murder attempt, and filed a complaint against the couple.

Sumitra is the daughter of Annayamma's sister. It was Annayamma who had got Sumitra and Muniraju married.

The couple, who worked at RMC Yard Market, hatched a murder plot and came to live with Annayamma in her house. They found out where she kept cash, gold and silver ornaments in the house.

On March 18, around 9.30pm, the accused took their aunt to the market, on the pretext of seeking her help to get their payment from their employer. Midway, Sumitra returned home, leaving her husband with Annayamma. In the dark, Muniraju stabbed her from behind, but when she started screaming for help, he fled the spot. Annayamma, who was injured, rushed back home and found that cash, gold and silver ornaments were stolen.

RMC Yard police registered a case of attempt to murder (IPC 307) and house theft (IPC 379) and arrested the couple on Thursday. They recovered stolen property worth about Rs 8.7 lakh, including Rs 4.12 lakh in cash.

Investigations are on.

NO SYMPATHY FOR POLICE OFFICER WITH NO RESPECT FOR LAW: HC

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court refused to quash criminal proceedings against inspector Harish V for allegedly damaging the reputation of the judiciary, by tearing a copy of anticipatory bail granted to an accused, throwing it on the floor, and abusing the sessions judge who granted bail.

The incident had taken place when Harish was sub-inspector at Sarjapura police station in 2021. "The petitioner, being a police officer, has defamed the court order, torn the court order and thrown the same on the floor and abused the sessions judge who granted anticipatory bail in filthy language. Such a police officer shall be tried and punished in accordance with law, and even the police department should have conducted a departmental inquiry against him. Such a person who has no respect for law cannot be shown any sympathy by court and it is not a fit case for quashing criminal proceedings against him," said Justice K Natarajan, dismissing the petition filed by Harish.

The court noted that the two advocates who had recorded Harish's behaviour on a mobile phone, deposed before the sessions court that they were eyewitnesses to the incident where the accused police officer was rude towards the court as well as complainant, Narayanaswamy alias JCB Narayan, and therefore, the petitioner is required to go for trial, the court added.

Harish challenged the criminal proceedings initiated against him before the magistrate court at Anekal on July 30, 2021, based on the private complaint filed by Narayanaswamy, who claims to be in the real estate business. He alleged that he was taken to Hulimavu police station by the inspector for inquiry in a case on July 10, 2021. Thereafter, he was brought to the DCP's office at Koramangala where he was released on bail.

The complainant also stated that around 4pm that day, Harish came with police personnel to the DCP's office to arrest him. The advocates informed Harish about the anticipatory bail granted to the complainant in the crime registered by Sarjapura police. Receiving the bail order copy, Harish allegedly tore it and threw it on the floor, stating that he was the judge for his police station and abused the judge who granted bail in filthy language. He allegedly told him he had to give bail and not any court. He also took the complainant to the police station and threatened him with a revolver, saying he would finish him off in an 'encounter' and bury the body.

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Regd. Office: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganapatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai – 400013.
CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(As per Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated as below calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice.
The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules.
The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited**, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date of demand notice.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
TCHHL0853000100176500 & TCHIN0853000100176565 & TCHHF0853000100238317	**Mr. T Mohankumar** (Borrower) **Mrs. Sumithra K** (Co Borrower)	As on 16.01.2024 **Rs.4007254/-**	**27th March, 2024**
SCHEDULE - PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the Property No. BBMP/BDA No.43/3, 2nd 'A' Cross, Subramanyanagar, 'B' Block, Bangalore situated in BBMP Ward No.9 (Subramanyanagar) (PID No.9-47- 43/3) and measuring East to West 29 Feet and North to South 17 Feet, total measuring 493 Sq Ft with RCC roofed house and Bounded on by, East by: Common Passage in the Same property measuring 102 x 5 Feet. West by: Others Property. North by: 'B' Schedule property of Siddalingaiah. South by: 'D' Schedule property of Jadiyappa.			
10360880	**Mr. Ravikumar SM** (Borrower) **Mrs. MANUJA G,** (Co Borrower)	As on 16.01.2024 **Rs. 2814542/-**	**27th March, 2024**
SCHEDULE - PROPERTY: All that, piece and parcel of the property bearing site no.30, Property No.150200302600220067, formed out of Converted in Sy.No.30/1, Plan Katha No.8230/1/30, (vide DC Conversion Oder bearing No. B.DIS.ALN(S)(KH- 3)SR.40/2012-13 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore South Taluk for non- Agricultural to Residential purpose) situated at Doddabele Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on: East by : Site No.31, West by : Site no.29, North by Road, South by : Site.No.21..			
TCHHF0493000100109211 & TCHIN0493000100112737	**Mr. Syed Musaib Ahmed** (Borrower) **Mrs. Humera Begum** (Co Borrower)	As on 08.01.2024 **Rs.58,87,071/-**	**27th March, 2024**
SCHEDULE - PROPERTY: SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of land being a vacant Residential Site bearing clubbed Municipal Corporation No.23/1, Benson Cross Road, Corporation Ward No.63, (92) PID No.92-32-23/1, Bangalore and bounded on: EAST BY: Private Property. WEST BY Approach Road leading to Benson Cross Road. NORTH BY Military Land; SOUTH BY Private properties; Totally measuring in all 12396 Square feet; **SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY** (Description of undivided share) 4.93% undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property hereinabove referred to which works out to 611 Square feet. **SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY** (Description of the Apartment) All that piece and parcel of a three bedroom FLAT bearing No.TF-206, on the Third Floor, having a super built-up area of 3300 Square feet together with Two reserved car park space bearing No.TF-206 in the basement of the Apartment building known as "GENESIS GRAANDE", constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, with Vitrified tiles, and proportionate share in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift, staircase and other areas of common use with right to pass through all the common passages leading to road and free for egress and ingress at all times and entitled for all the common areas and amenities;			
00000000010628148	**Mr. Syed Musaib Ahmed** (Borrower) **Mrs. Humera Begum** (Co Borrower)	As on 08.01.2024 **Rs.1,28,52,421/-**	**27th March, 2024**
SCHEDULE - PROPERTY: SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of land being a vacant Residential Site bearing clubbed Municipal Corporation No.23/1, Benson Cross Road, Corporation Ward No.63, (92) PID No.92-32-23/1, Bangalore and bounded on: EAST BY: Private Property. WEST BY Approach Road leading to Benson Cross Road. NORTH BY Military Land; SOUTH BY Private properties; Totally measuring in all 12396 Square feet; **SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY** (Description of undivided share), 4.93% undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property hereinabove referred to which works out to 611 Square feet. **SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY** (Description of the Apartment) All that piece and parcel of a Four bedroom FLAT bearing No.SF-206, on the Second Floor, having a super built-up area of 3300 Square feet together with Two reserved car park space bearing No.SF-206 & 206/A in the basement floor of the Apartment building known as "GENESIS GRAANDE", constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, with Vetrified tiles, and proportionate share in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift, staircase and other areas of common use with right to pass through all the common passages leading to road and free for egress and ingress at all times and entitled for all the common areas and amenities			

For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited
Date: 27th Mar 2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Contact No. (022) 61827414, (022) 61827375**

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Regd. Office: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganapatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai – 400013.
CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(As per Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated as below calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice.
The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules.
The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited**, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date of demand notice.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
TCHHL0853000100176500 & TCHIN0853000100176565 & TCHHF0853000100238317	**Mr. T Mohankumar** (Borrower) **Mrs. Sumithra K** (Co Borrower)	As on 16.01.2024 **Rs.4007254/-**	**27th March, 2024**
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10360880	**Mr. Ravikumar SM** (Borrower) **Mrs. MANUJA G,** (Co Borrower)	As on 16.01.2024 **Rs. 2814542/-**	**27th March, 2024**
SCHEDULE - PROPERTY: All that, piece and parcel of the property bearing site no.30, Property No.150200302600220067, formed out of Converted in Sy.No.30/1, Plan Katha No.8230/1/30, (vide DC Conversion Oder bearing No. B.DIS.ALN(S)(KH- 3)SR.40/2012-13 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore South Taluk for non- Agricultural to Residential purpose) situated at Doddabele Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on: East by : Site No.31, West by : Site no.29, North by Road, South by : Site.No.21..			
TCHHF0493000100109211 & TCHIN0493000100112737	**Mr. Syed Musaib Ahmed** (Borrower) **Mrs. Humera Begum** (Co Borrower)	As on 08.01.2024 **Rs.58,87,071/-**	**27th March, 2024**
SCHEDULE - PROPERTY: SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of land being a vacant Residential Site bearing clubbed Municipal Corporation No.23/1, Benson Cross Road, Corporation Ward No.63, (92) PID No.92-32-23/1, Bangalore and bounded on: EAST BY: Private Property. WEST BY Approach Road leading to Benson Cross Road. NORTH BY Military Land; SOUTH BY Private properties; Totally measuring in all 12396 Square feet; **SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY** (Description of undivided share) 4.93% undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property hereinabove referred to which works out to 611 Square feet. **SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY** (Description of the Apartment) All that piece and parcel of a three bedroom FLAT bearing No.TF-206, on the Third Floor, having a super built-up area of 3300 Square feet together with Two reserved car park space bearing No.TF-206 in the basement of the Apartment building known as "GENESIS GRAANDE", constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, with Vitrified tiles, and proportionate share in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift, staircase and other areas of common use with right to pass through all the common passages leading to road and free for egress and ingress at all times and entitled for all the common areas and amenities;			
00000000010628148	**Mr. Syed Musaib Ahmed** (Borrower) **Mrs. Humera Begum** (Co Borrower)	As on 08.01.2024 **Rs.1,28,52,421/-**	**27th March, 2024**
SCHEDULE - PROPERTY: SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of land being a vacant Residential Site bearing clubbed Municipal Corporation No.23/1, Benson Cross Road, Corporation Ward No.63, (92) PID No.92-32-23/1, Bangalore and bounded on: EAST BY: Private Property. WEST BY Approach Road leading to Benson Cross Road. NORTH BY Military Land; SOUTH BY Private properties; Totally measuring in all 12396 Square feet; **SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY** (Description of undivided share), 4.93% undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property hereinabove referred to which works out to 611 Square feet. **SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY** (Description of the Apartment) All that piece and parcel of a Four bedroom FLAT bearing No.SF-206, on the Second Floor, having a super built-up area of 3300 Square feet together with Two reserved car park space bearing No.SF-206 & 206/A in the basement floor of the Apartment building known as "GENESIS GRAANDE", constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, with Vetrified tiles, and proportionate share in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift, staircase and other areas of common use with right to pass through all the common passages leading to road and free for egress and ingress at all times and entitled for all the common areas and amenities			

For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited
Date: 27th Mar 2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Contact No. (022) 61827414, (022) 61827375**

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
Regional Office, Second Floor, Grand Majestic Mall, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-09.

Notice of Invitation of Design Competition Proposais
For engaging Principal Project Architect Cum
Project Management Consultant

Central Bank of India (CBoI) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Architectural Firms/Individuals for participating in the Design Competition for selection and engagement of Principal Project Architect cum Project Management Consultant to render Architectural Consultancy Services for the proposed construction of Staff Training cum Business Centre at IIDL Financial City, Hardware Park, Bengaluru.

The pre qualification/eligibility criteria, scope of the services to be rendered, terms and conditions of appointment and prescribed fromats for submission of application can be downloaded from Bank's website : **https://www.centralbankofindia.co.in/en/active-tender** from **30th March 2024 to 12th April 2024 upto 1.00 PM.** Interested Architectural Firms complying prescribed eligibility criteria should ensure submission of their applications in the prescribed format along with supporting documents ONLINE (through E-tendering process) latest by **3.00 pm on 12th April 2024**, For further details please contact, **Phone No. 080-22265653** or by **e-mail : gadbangro@centralbank.co.in**

Deputy Regional Head,
Regional Office,
Central Bank of India, Bengaluru

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its **Administrative Office** at **No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001** and one of the Branch Offices at **B.M. Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated **30-12-2023** calling upon the borrowers **No.1) Mr. Syed Mohammed Meraj (Also Legal Heir of Late Reshma Banu), S/o. Syed Mozher, No.1023, Jamia Masjid Cross, Upper Daira, Channapatnam, Ramanagara District - 562160. No.2) Mr. Syed Mazher Pasha (Also Legal Heir of Late Reshma Banu), S/o. M.B. Mahaboob Miyar, No.1023, Jamia Masjid Cross, Upper Daira, Channapatnam, Ramanagara District - 562160. No.3) Ms. Syeda Zoha Muskan (Legal Heir of Late Reshma Banu), D/o. Syed Mazher Pasha, No.1023, Jamia Masjid Cross, Upper Daira, Channapatnam, Ramanagara District - 562160. No.4) Ms. Syeda Zama Mehak (Legal Heir of Late Reshma Banu), D/o. Syed Mazher Pasha, No.1023, Jamia Masjid Cross, Upper Daira, Channapatnam, Ramanagara District - 562160. No.5) Mr. Syed Mohammed Ilham (Legal Heir of Late Reshma Banu), S/o. Syed Mazher Pasha, No.1023, Jamia Masjid Cross, Upper Daira, Channapatnam, Ramanagara District - 562160** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.40,01,373/- (Rupees Forty Lakh One Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Three only)** within **60 days** from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **30-12-2023** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 26th day of March 2024.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.41,18,077/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh Eighteen Thousand and Seventy Seven only)** and interest thereon from **04-03-2024** till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A
Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Late Reshma Banu (Now represented by Mr. Syed Mazhar Pasha, Mr. Syed Mohammed Meraj, Ms. Syeda Zoha Muskan, Ms. Syeda Zama Mehak & Mr. Syed Mohammed Ilham as his Legal Heirs)

All the piece and parcel of the Vacant Site bearing Municipal No.1755, Door No.1593:1390 Measuring : East to West 36 feet, North to South 47 feet situated at Islampura Mohalla. Dayara, Ward No.24, B-Division, Channapatna Town. Bounded on : East by : Sabjans House, West by : A. Abbas House, North by : Kadar Khan House, South by : Municipal Road.

Place : Bengaluru-Ramanagara, Date : 26-03-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

सीडीएफडी
डी एन ए फ़िंगरप्रिंटिंग एवं निदान केन्द्र
(जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का स्वायत्त संस्थान)
CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS
(an autonomous institute of the Dept. of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderabad - 500 039, Telangana, India **दूरभाष / Tel:** +91-40-2721 6199
फैक्स / Fax: +91-40-2721 6006 **वेबसाईट / Website:** http://www.cdfd.org.in

PH.D.- 2024-II ADMISSIONS

The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, invites applications from highly motivated candidates for admission to its Ph.D. - 2024-II. Keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of modern biology, we especially encourage persons from diverse backgrounds to apply. Those admitted as Research Scholars would be encouraged to register under the Ph.D. program of Manipal Academy of Higher Education or Regional Centre for Biotechnology.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible, a candidate must have:

1. A Master's degree in any branch of Science, Technology, or Agriculture from a recognized University / Institute OR MBBS. **Candidates who have appeared for their final semester examination, but are awaiting results, are also eligible to apply.**
2. Qualified for a Junior Research Fellowship from CSIR / UGC / DBT / ICMR / INSPIRE / JEST / UGC - RGNF or any other similar examination with fellowship.
   *Candidates having qualified for Project - JRF under the ICMR funded project Scheme [which is only for a period of two years] OR DBT JRF NET with a B.Tech. [Biotechnology] degree OR DBT JRF NET under DBT - category – II list OR LS-NET qualification only in CSIR-UGC (NET) examination are **NOT** eligible.*

(Please see CDFD website (https://www.cdfd.org.in) for details).

Selection Procedure

Admission to the CDFD - Ph.D.-2024-II will be based on an **interview via video conference** scheduled to be held in end of May / beginning of June, 2024. The candidates should be available for more than one round of interviews, spread over a week, if needed.

(Please see CDFD website (http://www.cdfd.org.in) for details).

Interested candidates who fulfill the above conditions may register their names for **Ph.D.- 2024-II** by applying in the prescribed application form online. The link for the application form is available at **http://www.cdfd.org.in**

The Online facility of application will be closed on **April 24, 2024.**

Visit the CDFD website http://www.cdfd.org.in for detailed advertisement / General terms and conditions.

KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK
(A scheduled Bank Established by Government of India : Sponsored by Canara Bank)
Regional Office, Bengaluru, R & L Section
Ph: 080-23186095, 23217079 : Email: roblr.rlw@kgbk.in
No.19-19/1, 2nd Floor, South End Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004.

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Karnataka Gramin Bank **Dasanapura Branch,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **30.12.2023,** calling upon the borrowers, **Sri. L.G. Narayanappa S/o Gangaiah** No.67, Laxmipura, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk-562162 and Guarantor: Smt. Lakshmidevamma W/o D M Lakshminarayanappa, Siddanahosahalli, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk-562162, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 5,40,830/-** (Rupees Five Lakh Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Only) as on 26.12.2023 & interest from 27.12.2023 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **25.03.2024.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of, time available to redeem the secured Assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Karnataka Gramin Bank, Dasanapura Branch for an amount **Rs. 5,58,400/-** (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Only) as on 28.02.2024 and interest from 27.02.2024.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential House Property bearing Property Site No.13, Katha No.256/87/1, Measuring East to West: 40 Ft., North to South 56 Ft., Situated at Siddanahosahalli, Dasanapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk. Property Standing in the name of **Sri. L.G. Narayanappa S/o Gangaiah** and Bounded on: **East by:** Gramathana House, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property No.12, **South by:** Road.

Date: 25.03.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Place: Bengaluru **KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK**

For the last 10 years, democracy has received a jolt with the government misusing investigative agencies and the country on the verge of dictatorship

Mukhyamantri Chandru, AAP state chief

POLLING DATE
PHASE-2 APRIL 26
PHASE-3 MAY 7

DAYS TO GO
PHASE-2 27
PHASE-3 38

TOTAL SEIZURES ₹62,42,20,710

FIRS BOOKED 969

COMPLAINTS ON CVIGIL 8,703
No. of candidates filing nominations for Phase-2 elections 25

TWEET OF THE DAY

To my friends in Opposition, whose sole point of criticism involves my age, I have a message for you, By subjecting young people to Ageism, you disregard ability of all young Indians to take responsibility and deliver. I can understand intellectual incapability of the Opposition to attack me on valid grounds, but they should realise Youngsters are leading and ushering in new culture across all domains, including Politics.

@Tejasvi_Surya, MP and Bengaluru South candidate from BJP

WORK UNITEDLY TO WIN ALL 28 SEATS, SAYS GOWDA

Former PM tells JDS, BJP leaders to forget past; Accuses K'taka Cong leaders of supplying money to other states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Senior BJP and JDS leaders on Friday, held a meeting to discuss measures to ensure proper coordination among leaders and workers from both parties to ensure the victory of NDA candidates in the Lok Sabha elections. Top leaders, including Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, former CMs BS Yediyurappa, HD Kumaraswamy, and BJP state president BY Vijayendra, attended the meeting.

Addressing leaders from both parties, Gowda said they all must forget what happened in the past and work together for the victory of BJP-JDS candidates as time is short. "Our opponents are strong, don't think we are going to win all 28 seats, unless and until we forget what differences we had in the past and work together," Gowda said.

He appealed to BJP and JDS workers to work together for the sake of the nation as only Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah can resolve the problems facing the nation. The former PM expressed concerns about Congress spending huge amounts of money on the elections. He accused Congress leaders in the state of supplying money to other states during elections and asked senior leaders of both parties to take resource management seriously and focus on working as a cohesive team in all the constituencies. Gowda slammed Congress leaders who questioned the JDS' strength and assured leaders from both parties that he would do his best to convince voters. He told them to give a befitting response to Siddaramaiah.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra said though BJP and JDS had formed an alliance in 2006, former PM Gowda had not approved it due to ideological reasons, but now Gowda is fully backing it.

Vijayendra said leaders from both parties have already started campaigning together in all the LS segments and workers from both parties have got a clear message.

Former CM HD Kumaraswamy said for some unavoidable reasons, the BJP-JDS alliance in 2006 did not last long. If both the parties had formed an alliance in 2018, they would have probably continued to be in power, he said.

Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa expressed confidence that they will win all 28 seats. BJP and JDS are forming coordination committees at the state, district, and assembly constituency levels to ensure proper coordination between BJP, which is contesting from 25 seats, and leaders from JDS, which is contesting from three seats.

Sumalatha's support sought

After the meeting, Vijayendra met Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambareesh to seek support for JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy, who will be contesting from Mandya.

Sumalatha, who won the 2019 LS polls as an independent candidate, was trying hard for the BJP ticket. Vijayendra said Sumalatha informed him that she would hold a meeting with her supporters in Mandya on Friday and announce her decision.

Senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa interacts with former PM and JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda, as BJP state president BY Vijayendra looks on, at a coordination meeting in Bengaluru on Friday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Leaders from both parties (BJP and JDS) have already started campaigning together in all the Lok Sabha segments and workers from both parties have got a clear message

BY Vijayendra, BJP state president

Our opponents are strong, don't think we are going to win all 28 seats, unless and until we forget what differences we had in the past and work together... BJP and JDS workers to work together for the sake of the nation

HD Deve Gowda, former prime minister and JDS supremo

For some unavoidable reasons, the BJP-JDS alliance in 2006 did not last long. If both the parties had formed an alliance in 2018, they would have probably continued to be in power

HD Kumaraswamy, former chief minister and JDS state chief

BJP strong through JDS pact, says MLC

B THIPPERUDRAPPA
@ Chikkamagaluru

WILL the BJP's alliance with the JDS work in favour of the BJP candidate in Udupi-Chikkamagaluru constituency? Both the JDS and BJP have said that both will wriggle out of all confusion and launch a joint campaign for smooth-sailing of BJP candidate, with a huge margin, in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from the Udupi-Chikkamagaluru constituency. However, MLC MK Pranesh said several rounds of talks and coordination meetings are being held to sort out differences between the two parties and expressed confidence that BJP candidate Kota Srinivasa Poojari will emerge victorious.

Meanwhile, MLC and aide of former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, SL Bhoje Gowda, has said BJP has taken a good decision by allocating ticket to a man of simplicity and integrity like Poojari and the onus of getting him elected is on his party too. Gowda said that the prevailing confusion has been sorted out and the party office called upon party workers on Thursday to set aside differences and support Poojari.

He stressed the need to ensure success of this alliance, as it is likely to continue in the TP and ZP elections too. The question is whether JDS workers at the lower levels are emotionally allied with the BJP. One of the JDS workers said it would be difficult to accept alliance with BJP, claiming that it is against the country's secular fabric. It, however, remains to be seen Pranesh's words will come true that BJP has now got the strength of an elephant by its alliance with the JDS, and will sail through comfortably in the Lok Sabha polls.

BJP and JDS leaders with former home minister Araga Jnanendra at a coordination committee meeting in Chikkamagaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

Former chief minister and BJP candidate for Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency, Jagadish Shettar, calls on Panchamsali seer Shri Jayamrutyunjaya Swamiji in Belagavi on Friday | EXPRESS

No entry, digi-Reddy to campaign in Ballari

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Ballari

GANGAVATI MLA Gali Janardhana Reddy, who recently rejoined the BJP and is considered a crowdpuller, will hold a digital campaign in his home turf Ballari, for his friend and candidate B Sriramulu.

The BJP, which hopes to capitalise on the star campaigner, is constrained by a Supreme Court order which prohibits Janardhana Reddy from entering Ballari district, ever since his arrest in connection with the illegal mining case by the CBI. The party now plans to use Reddy on digital platforms to garner his followers' votes.

Last year, Reddy formed a regional party, Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha, and fielded his wife Aruna Lakshmi as a candidate. Then too, he had used a promotional vehicle in Ballari city. Now, the situation has changed – Reddy is back in the BJP and his campaign is being beamed via digital format.

B Sriramulu, Ballari BJP candidate, said that Janardhana Reddy rejoining the BJP will definitely bulk up his winning margin in the Lok Sabha election. The Supreme Court has not allowed him physically into Ballari, but he will promote his friends on social media platforms, and connect with Ballari residents. A senior BJP leader said KRPP was officially merged with the BJP last week.

In the 2023 assembly elections too, Reddy had used a few vehicles with a display of his speech for a digital campaign for his wife Aruna. He is hoping to campaign in a similar manner this year too.

Cong list out for 3 seats, Kolar on hold

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CONGRESS on Friday declared its candidates for three Lok Sabha seats from Karnataka, but withheld its decision on the Kolar seat.

The trend of fielding relatives of ministers continued with the son of Social Welfare Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa, Sunil Bose, getting the ticket from the Chamarajanagar seat. It is a disappointment for former union minister and former chief minister M Veerappa Moily, as the party high command declared Raksha Ramaiah for the Chikkaballapura seat. Apart from Moily, former minister HN Shivashankar Reddy was also a strong contender. Party sources said Reddy may quit the party. Raksha's candidature was strongly backed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. He will take on former minister Dr K Sudhakar.

Even as former MP VS Ugrappa was in the race for the Ballari constituency, the party chose Sanduru MLA E Tukaram, who will take on BJP's B Sriramulu.

Cong's Suresh seeks Krishna's blessings

BENGALURU: Bengaluru Rural MP and Congress candidate DK Suresh on Friday paid a courtesy visit to former CM SM Krishna. "Today I received the blessings of S M Krishna, a senior politician and former Chief Minister of Karnataka. During this time his long political experience and the advice he shared have further inspired me," Suresh posted on X. Krishna, who is with the BJP, is a close relative of DCM DK Shivakumar. Krishna was the bete noire of former PM HD Deve Gowda, and the latter's son-in-law Dr CN Manjunath is the BJP candidate against DK Suresh. **ENS**

KOLAR CONGRESS ON THE BOIL EVEN AFTER CM, DCM INTERVENE

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

THE revolt that has engulfed the Congress unit in Kolar continues unabated, even after CM Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar chaired a meeting with the two factions, headed by Food and Civil Supplies Minister **KH Muniyappa** and former speaker Ramesh Kumar, and the team comprising Higher Education Minister and Chikkaballapur district in-charge minister Dr MC Sudhakar, legislators Kothur Manjunath (Kolar), KY Nanje Gowda (Malur), and MLCs Nazeer Ahmed and Anil Kumar.

On the condition of anonymity, a legislator belonging to the Ramesh Kumar grouping, said that Siddaramaiah told them that so far, no decision has been taken with respect to the candidate for the Kolar Lok Sabha (Reserved) constituency, and moving for resignation is not correct, and will negatively impact the party. The legislator, however, said that all members insisted upon Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar to pass on a strong message to the high command that the ticket should be given only to a member of the SC (Right) community.

He also said that if the high command decides to issue the ticket to a member of the SC (Left) community, the move will be respected, but the ticket should not be in favour of Muniyappa's family. He said they are confident that the state leadership and AICC will definitely consider their appeal.

The leader also questioned how it was possible to campaign in Srinivsapura, without the presence of former speaker Ramesh Kumar, who has good hold over the constituency.

On the other hand, a senior leader, a confidante of Muniyappa, said that in the Congress, a person is not important, the party is.

The AICC, after considering all aspects, will issue a ticket to a person, and the team headed by Ramesh Kumar is specifically targeting senior leader Muniyappa, who has worked for the victory of several MLAs and MLCs in the district and also in the state. "What is wrong in issuing the ticket to Muniyappa's son-in-law Chikkapeddanna, when the party has already issued tickets to several relatives of other Congress leaders," he asked.

'Peace should be brokered between groups'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I never opposed some of them (Ramesh Kumar faction leaders) joining the party, being given Assembly tickets and inducted into the ministry (Dr M C Sudhakar). But since the last Assembly polls, I have been suggesting that peace should be brokered between us, but that has not happened," Muniyappa alleged.

Muniyappa has been on good terms with the JDS leadership for decades and the regional party considering Chikkapeddanna as its candidate if Congress fails to give him a ticket cannot be ruled out, a source said. That is the reason JDS has not declared Mallesh Babu, a Bhovi leader, as its candidate yet, he added.

CHARGES OF DEVE GOWDA AGAINST HASSAN DC BASELESS, SAYS RAJANNA

HASSAN: Hassan district in-charge minister **KN Rajanna** on Friday said the allegations of JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda against Deputy Commissioner C Satyabhama are baseless. Speaking to the media after addressing Congress workers in Arasikere, Rajanna said Gowda can complaint against anybody and the institution, but the contents of the complaint should be genuine. "Gowda has the habit of tarnishing the image of senior officials with false charges. The duty of any deputy commissioner is to effectively implement schemes and programmes of the government. Satyabhama has done the same. What is wrong in it," he asked. It may be recalled that Gowda had urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to transfer the DC. "The ECI must not take action based on Gowda's complain, as she is an honest officer working in the interest of the common man," the minister said. To a question, Rajanna hoped that former BJP MLA Preetam J Gowda would decide appropriately on campaigning for the JDS candidate. "This election is important for Preetam as well. Lets wait and watch the former MLA's move," he added. Coming down heavily on Gowda for becoming an opportunistic politician, Rajanna recalled that the JDS supremo had once said he would leave the country if Narendra Modi became prime minister in 2019. It is unfortunate that the JDS leader has compromised on his secular credentials just for the sake of three seats, he added. **ENS**

Miffed with meet, Veena to decide on next move

FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Bagalkot

VEENA Kashappanavar, the former ZP president who is anguished with the Congress over the denial of ticket to contest from Bagalkot Lok Sabha constituency, has reiterated that she is unhappy with the outcome of a meeting called to find a solution to her demand.

Speaking to The New Indian Express, she said that she attended the meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and other party leaders, which was convened to end the confusion over the ticket in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Following the "failure" of the meeting, she has now announced to remain neutral, and would be taking a final call on contesting the polls shortly.

"Within a couple of days, I will convene a meeting of my supporters. I will take their opinion on my future course of action. Based on the outcome of the meeting, I will decide whether or not to contest, but presently I remain neutral in my stand," she said.

Veena, who is the wife of Congress MLA Vijayanand Kashappanavar, is primarily upset after the party offered a ticket to Samyukta Patil, the daughter of minister Shivanand Patil. Patil is a native of Vijayapura. Veena wanted the party to give her the ticket as she is not only a resident of Bagalkot, but has been working for the party for the last five years, even after losing in the last LS polls against sitting MP PC Gaddigoudar.

"I have no idea who told the media that I have accepted any offer. Frankly speaking, I was not given any offer as mentioned in some media reports. I am still firm on my demand of getting a ticket to contest in the polls. I was bluntly told that my demand will not be met," she said.

LEARN PROBLEMS OF BENEFICIARIES: PM TO TN BJP MEN

Says organise well, connect with voters, highlight achievements, hold tiffin or lunch meetings to discuss next step

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday in a virtual interaction with BJP workers of Tamil Nadu through the NaMo App ahead of Lok Sabha polls suggested them to keep regular meeting with people and beneficiaries of government schemes. Sharing some tips for better people-to-workers connects, PM Modi at the "Enathu Booth Valimaiyana Booth" (My booth is the strongest) programme, said" Go and sit with the beneficiaries of schemes and poor people, Try to know their problems and help them through government schemes also". Encouraging them to act well to win seats, he said "I understand you are facing a paucity of time owing to the general election scheduled for April 19 in Tamil Nadu. You hardly have 15-16 days left (since election campaigning ends 48 hours before polling day). Organise yourselves well, connect with the voters, highlight our achievements and hold tiffin or lunch meetings amongst you to discuss the next step". Modi also obtained feedbacks on women-led development schemes from a party worker. As part of his interaction with BJP workers, PM Modi heard a woman from Tiruvarur who spoke specifically about schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) and Jal Jeevan Mission. Citing his experinecs, he also asked the booth-level workers to organise themselves into small groups of three members each having at least one woman in it, and meet 10 families daily. "Sit with those families, discuss with them and even extend what help you possibly could. And in the night discuss among yourselves the people's requirements and plan your strategy accordingly", he advised to party workers. He also suggested the party workers to hold a meeting once in three or four days with women, first-time voters, fishermen, farmers and even beneficiaries of the central schemes to explain the achievements of the BJP government. Taking a jibe at DMK government, PM Modi said that the governance in Tamil Nadu has been in bad shape since the DMK government and its allies came to power. He alleged that the ruling party promoted corruption, law and order problems and misgovernance. "All such issues need to be communicated to every family in the booth", Modi tipped to party workers. Modi termed the present ruling political dispensation in TN as dynastic. "These dynastic political parties mean 'of the family, by the family and for the family'. This very expression sums up the dynastic parties", Modi remarked.

'KTR will face jail for comments on phone tapping'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hyderabad

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy has warned that BRS working president K T Rama Rao would have to taste the food at Charlapalli prison for his comments that certain officials might have tapped the phones of some individuals.

Addressing a meeting of Valmiki Boyas and workers of Nagarkurnool Lok Sabha constituency, he said: "If KTR continues to talk so recklessly, he is sure to find himself in jail." He recalled warning the police officials that they would be in serious trouble if they indulged in phone tapping. "Now, they are in prison and the BRS leaders are not bothered about them any longer," he maintained.

He said that when the BRS was in power, people were afraid of speaking on phones. "In those days, even phone conversations between a wife and her husband used to be tapped. Only after the advent of the Congress government did the people really feel what freedom means. They can now talk freely to anyone without the fear of someone listening in," he asserted.

The chief minister said that the police were probing the phone-tapping scandal thoroughly and were gathering evidence to send the guilty to jail. "Some BRS workers are shooting off their mouths, daring the government to nail them in phone taping case. This tendency should stop," he warned.

The chief minister asserted that the people were satisfied with the 100-day rule of the Congress in Telangana. The schemes being implemented in the state have come in for appreciation, he said and added he was surprised to know that leaders in other states were discussing the welfare programmes in Telangana.

Revanth Reddy alleged that the BRS and the BJP were conspiring to ensure the defeat of the Congress candidate in Mahbubnagar district as he hailed from there. He wanted to know why the people of Mahbubnagar should vote for the BJP as the saffron party had done nothing though Narendra Modi has been the prime minister of the country for 10 years.

He accused BJP leader DK Aruna of working with the BRS and defeating the Congress candidates in Gadwal and Alampur in the last Assembly elections. He urged the people to support Congress MP candidates in Mahbubnagar and Nagarkurnool. He said that the government was committed to the welfare of the Valmiki Boya community and he would work for their welfare after the Lok Sabha elections.

REMEMBERING THE LORD

Devotees offer prayers on the occasion of Good Friday at Sacred Heart church in Egmore | EXPRESS

Naidu releases TDP final list of candidates in AP

S VISWANATH @ Vijayawada

THE TDP on Friday released the fourth list of MLA candidates for nine assembly constituencies and four Lok Sabha segments. The TDP is contesting for 144 Assembly constituencies and announced candidates for all of them in four spells.

Similarly, the TDP also announced candidates for all the 17 Parliamentary seats it contested as part of the tripartite alliance. After announcing candidates for 13 Lok Sabha segements in the first list, the TDP now released the second list of candidates for the remaining four seats.

The long-wait of former minister Ganta Srinivasa Rao came to a happy end as he got the ticket to contest from Bheemili Assembly constituency as desired by him. Similarly, party senior leader and another former minister Kimidi Kala Venkata Rao also got the ticket to contest from Cheepurupalli Assembly constituency. Though Venkata Rao aspired to contest from Etcherla constituency in Srikakulam district, he could not get that seat as it was allocated to the BJP as part of the alliance.

Former Gummanur Jayaram, who recently joined the TDP from the YSRC got the opportunity to contest from Guntakal Assembly constituency.

K Venkata Ramesh Naidu would contest from Paderu, G Lakshmi (Darsi), S Subramanyam (Rajampet), Veerabhadra Goud (Alur), Daggupati Venkateshwar Prasad (Anantapur Urban) and K Venkata Prasad (Kadiri). In fact, the Kadiri seat was first announced to Venkata Prasad's wife and later replaced with Venkata Prasad.

Among the list of MP candidates, Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, Ongole sitting MP, who shifted loyalties to the TDP from YSRC also got the ticket to contest from the same segment. Though Srinivasulu Reddy announced his retirement from active politics while joining the TDP and declared that his son Raghava Reddy will contest the polls, the TDP preferred to field Srinivasulu Reddy instead of his son. For the Vizianagaram Lok Sabha segment, the TDP picked up Kalisetti Appala Naidu and for Kadapa and Anantapur Lok Parliamentary seats.

The bridge that collapsed near Kumta

Bridge collapses, years of demand washed out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kumta (Uttara Kannada)

A BRIDGE under construction at Tharibagilu in Kumta taluk of Uttara Kannada district across river Aghanashini caved in, enraging the public.

After years of demand by the people of Hegde, Tharibagilu and other places, the work on the bridge connecting Hegde and Tharibagilu began a year ago. But the bridge caved in on Wednesday afternoon.

Bhasker Patgar, a local Kannada activist, said three girders crashed and the bridge too collapsed. "Fortunately, at the time of the accident, labourers working on the bridge had gone for lunch. If they were working at the time, human lives too would have been lost," he said. He lashed out at the contractor for the substandard work. The project is being executed by D' Costa, a company in Kundapura that has constructed several bridges in the state.

Those who fought for the bridge for long are disappointed. "We protested, agitated and submitted several memorandums to the government for the construction of the bridge. It became a reality only when Kota Srinivasa Poojary became the district minister and Rs 18.20 crore was allocated," said Manjunath Patgar, a resident of Hegde.

Another activist Raghavendra Gunga said the bridge would have saved about 11 km from Kumta to Mirjan. "Our villagers had realised that the construction was bad and warned the contractor that this would be a disaster. But he went ahead with the work without heeding them," he said.

The bridge has damaged a crane, an earthmover and a vehicle under it. The villagers are now demanding a quality test of the bridge. Local officers and Kumta MLA Dinaker Shetty visited the spot.

ON CAMPUS

Sexually harassed, girl jumps off building

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Visakhapatnam

A COLLEGE student reportedly died by suicide by jumping from a college building following alleged sexual harassment on Friday. The death of a girl student due to alleged sexual harassment created a flutter on the city. However, the police said though it was a suicide they were yet to establish the motive behind the suicide.

The girl was studying diploma first year in the college. The CCTV footage revealed that the girl made several rounds going upstairs and coming down. The police believe the girl was uncertain before taking the extreme step.

The police said they have registered a case and are investigating. Only after through investigation the facts will come out and will act accordingly after completion of investigation, the police said.

Meanwhile, a Whatsapp message purportedly sent by the girl to her parents and sister before taking the extreme step she said she was forced to take the decision as one of the faculty members was harassing her sexually. He reportedly even threatened to post her nude photos in social media if she informed the police, she said.

The girl said she had no alternative except to resort to extreme step. The PM Palem police have registered a case and are investigating. The police sent the body to KGH for postmortem.

Meanwhile, Sakala Janula Sangham leaders blamed the college management for the incident. They demanded stringent action against those involved and also the management for its failure to protect the students.

EXPRESS READ

Police rescues 25 calves, confiscates 10K kg beaf

Hassan: In two separate incidents, the Channarayapatna police rescued 25 calves that were allegedly being transported to slaughterhouses On the other hand, over ten thousand kg beef was confiscated from a shop on Bagur road in the same town on Friday. Police arrested one Irshad, the owner of the shop in this connection. Two others who allegedly supplied the calves are absconding. The rescued calves have been shifted to Pinjrapole cattle rehabilitation centre in Mysuru.

Three of family end lives over debt

Theni: Three of a family allegedly killed themselves in Chinnamanur area on Friday over mounting debt. The deceased are identified as K Sevathi Veeran (60), his wife S Ochammal (51), and their son S Rajesh (31). On Friday, their neighbours grew suspicious after they didn't open their door till 9 am. Some neighbours broke open the door, and allegedly found the three unconscious. They were rushed to a nearby hospital, where they were declared brought dead.

Class 12 boy gored to death in Thirupattur

Sivaganga: A 19-year-old Class 12 boy was gored to death by a bull at a manjuvirattu event in Nedumaram village near Thirupattur on Friday. The deceased has been identified as R Kumaravel, a spectator of the event. According to police, the manjuvirattu was organised at the Malaiarasi Amman Temple, and saw the participation of hundreds of bulls and tens of tamers.

TWIN JOLT TO BJP AS BEHERA, NAYAK QUIT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Cuttack/Bhubaneswar

EVEN as the saffron party was rejoicing over the joining of BJD veteran and six time MP from Cuttack Bhatruhari Mahatab in BJP, it received a double jolt on Friday as Cuttack district president Prakash Behera and sitting MLA from Nilagiri assembly seat Sukant Nayak quit the party. The resignation of Behera from the primary membership of the party is crucial ahead of election as it is an indication of the fact that all is not well in the BJP in such an important district. Sources said that Behera was not happy with the inclusion of Mahatab to the party and the possibility of the party fielding him from the Cuttack Lok Sabha seat in the ensuing election. Behera was reportedly an aspirant for a ticket from the Lok Sabha seat. Sources maintained that Behera has a good base in the Salipur assembly segment and its adjoining areas and his resignation from the BJP will have an adverse impact on performance of the party irrespective whom the party selects as its candidate from the Lok Sabha.

Behera, however, cited incompatibility with the state leadership as the reason behind the resignation from the party. "I have tried my best to do justice to the post and make the party to achieve milestones but have been unable to do so satisfactorily. Nevertheless I thank you and leadership for giving me the opportunity to serve the party under your able guidance and leadership for which I shall ever remain grateful," read his resignation letter to state president Manmohan Samal. Behera had won the Salipur assembly constituency on a Congress ticket in 2014 but had resigned from the grand old grand party and joined BJP before the 2019 election. He had contested the 2019 election from Salipur on a BJP ticket unsuccessfully. Behera, however, refrained from speaking against the BJP and said there was no problem for me in availing the party ticket for the upcoming election. "There was some difference of opinion and decision making problem for which I could adjust with the leadership," he added.

While asked about his next step, Behera stated that he will take the next step after holding discussion with his workers and well wishers. Sources, however, said he is likely to join the BJD soon.

Sources said that Nayak will join BJD in a day or two. The regional outfit is likely to field him from the Nilagiri assembly seat.

Karjol faces rebel heat on entering C'durga

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga

THE BJP candidate Govind M Karjol on Friday faced strong rebellion from the BJP workers, as they shouted "Go Back Karjol," near Challakere gate of the city and near the BJP campaign office located in front of the Boys Junior college in the city.

As soon as the news of arrival of Karjol was received by the section of workers who are opposing the candidature of Karjol, they assembled near Challakere gate and showed ply cards to the BJP candidate.

Understanding the seriousness of the situation, the district police provided security to the candidate.

Karjol who faced the heat took another route to reach the BJP campaign office, where he also faced further heat from the BJP rebels.

Black flags, oil, eggs seized

Speaking to TNIE Superintendent of police Dharmendar Kumar Meena said, "The police were on alert and detained 14 people who were about to hurl eggs, stones on Govind Karjol. During the search we also found black flags and oil from the vehicles."

Based on the information provided by the MCC team the police will initiate action. The alert policing of the Chitradurga district police averted a major embarrassment for the BJP candidate.

Karjol who spoke to media at Hiriyur said that, the BJP will win all the 28 parliamentary seats and there is no rebellion in Chitradurga BJP and everything will be sorted out in a day or two. With JDS and BJP parties jointly campaigning in the elections, my strength has increased, he said.

Police detain the BJP rebel group which opposed party candidate Govind M Karjol in Chitradurga on Friday | EXPRESS

Yathindra calls Shah 'goonda', BJP knocks on EC's doors for action

MYSURU: Congress leader and former MLA Yathindra Siddaramaiah's remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah has stirred controversy as BJP leaders have demanded the Election Commission to take action for violation of model code of conduct. Speaking during a party meeting at Hanur on Thursday, a video of which has gone viral, Yathindra termed "Shah as a goonda and a rowdy and alleged that there was a murder charge on him in Gujarat and he was exiled, but sadly Modi did politics keeping such people next to him....." The comments have not gone well with BJP leaders across the state including a few in the region. BJP Mysuru city spokesperson Mohan M A condemned the remarks and said the party will appeal to the poll body for violating the MCC ahead of the polls. "This is a personal attack on our leaders and Congress is indulging in such practice over the last couple of months. Yathindra made a totally reprehensible statement and it's a personal attack on our leaders. His words tell the culture and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah must teach his son proper culture," he said. He also demanded an unconditional apology from Yathindra for his remarks on PM Modi and Amit Shah.

I treat the BJP as my mother. As per the directives of the party I have come to Chitradurga. We all will work honestly for the victory of BJP and ensure that all the 28 candidates win the elections

Govind Karjol, BJP candidate from Chitradurga

All in family! Dynastic politics not a slur now

Political leaders, be it from Cong, JDS and even BJP, want to keep power within family

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@Bengaluru

UNLIKE in the 2023 assembly polls, dynastic politics is likely to be a non-issue in the Lok Sabha elections, with all parties equally guilty of fielding family members -- sons, daughters and even sons-in-law -- of top leaders.

The BJP, which was conventionally against dynastic politics and attacked the Congress and JDS on this point, has been silenced by its alliance with the JDS, branded as the 'Appamakkala' party. The Congress, especially Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, would go hammer and tongs against the regional party for its propensity to keep all tickets within the family, but has itself fielded over a dozen kin of top leaders.

This time, AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Dodmani is contesting from Kalaburagi, and former prime minister and JDS supremo H D Deve Gowda's son-in-law Dr C N Manjunath is contesting on a BJP ticket from Bengaluru Rural. Both Kharge and Gowda, Rajya Sabha members, chose not to contest the LS polls for their own reasons.

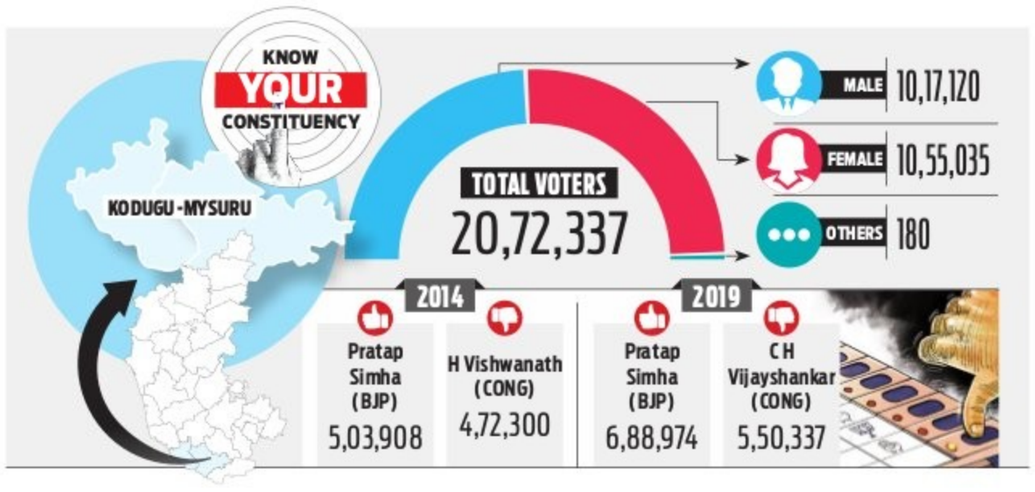
Gowda's grandson and Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna is the candidate once again, and Gowda's son and former CM H D Kumaraswamy is likely to contest from Mandya. Interestingly, except for Kolar, which is reserved for SC category, only Gowda's relatives will be in the fray in Old Mysuru region, considered a Vokkaliga bastion.

The BJP's story is no different. Former CM B S Yediyurappa's son B Y Vijayendra is Shikaripura MLA and state party chief, while his other son, sitting MP BY Raghavendra, has been renominated as candidate from Shivamogga LS seat. His detractor within the party and former minister K S Eshwarappa, a RSS loyalist, has turned rebel. The bone of contention is that when Yediyurappa's sons are being given prominence, the party hasn't treated his son Kanthesh in a similar manner. Kanthesh was an aspirant for Haveri LS seat, but the party declared former CM Basavaraj Bommai as its candidate.

CM Siddaramaiah, who had ensured his son Dr Yathindra got elected as Varuna MLA in the 2018 assembly polls, chose not to field him from Kodagu-Mysuru this time, following a survey report and the opinion of local leaders that went against him, according to sources.

But the GOP, which has issued LS tickets to ministers' children, who are in their mid-twenties and early thirties, has been facing criticism in political circles.

The problem with all leaders, big or small, is that they want political power to remain within their families. Irrespective of the outcome of the elections, they are likely to have a strong hold over the region so that no young leaders emerge, observed political analysts.



After 25 years, a battle royale again in Mysuru-Kodagu seat

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

MYSURU, the City of Palaces, has drawn national attention and the curiosity of political pandits as the royal Wadiyar family has taken on a political role after two decades. It is a battle between the Raja and a commoner -- scion of the Mysore royal family Yaduveer Krishnadutta Chamaraja Wadiyar and Congress leader M Lakshmana -- which has reset the social and political arithmetic.

The BJP succeeded in persuading 32-year-old Yaduveer to jump into politics, with the ulterior motive of denying a ticket to two-time MP Prathap Simha, and rewriting political strategy.

Knowing that the strong Vokkaliga community backed the BJP candidate to a large extent in the previous election, the Congress is wooing the community by fielding M Lakshmana, a Vokkaliga, after a gap of 47 years.

The Congress already enjoys the backing of minorities, Dalits, Kurubas and microscopic backward communities, and a section of the Vokkaliga community miffed after a raw deal was meted out to Prathap Simha. The battle has turned curious as the Congress has clinched both assembly constituencies in Kodagu district, which is a BJP stronghold and had given the party a massive lead in the previous election.

Yaduveer

M Lakshmana

Though Yaduveer has tried to counter and clarify opposition charges, and said he is a common man, like any other person who has come out of the Palace to serve the people, the Congress has made his royalty his baggage, besides his inaccessibility and lack of familiarity with citizens.

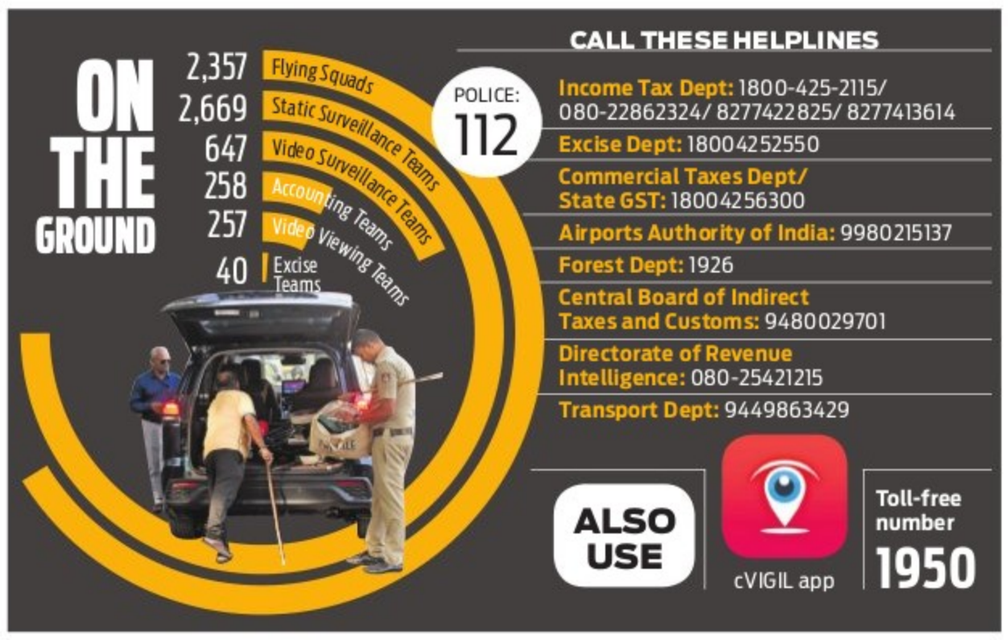
Leaders of the grand old party are jittery over the BJP's alliance with the JDS, which has a strong presence in Mysuru, winning two assembly seats and finishing second in four assembly segments. They fear that a good understanding between the cadres of both parties and transfer of votes would add to the Congress' worry.

Vokkaliga card

The Congress, that has won five of eight assembly segments in Mysuru-Kodagu constituency, is playing up the Vokkaliga card, and hoping it will turn the tables in their favour.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on a break at a private resort, held a series of meetings and appealed for the victory of loyal Congress worker Lakshmana. Sources said he advised party leaders not to aggressively attack the royal family candidate, which will give the BJP a handle to turn it into an emotional issue. "There are no kings in democracy. Yaduveer is just a BJP candidate," he added.

To counter the Congress game, the BJP has held conventions of Vokkaligas and STs to ensure that the Congress strategy does not work. Yaduveer, who is trying to liberally mix with the people and cadre, has created a buzz among voters of the Nayaka community, Dalits and others. He has also announced that he will take along people of all religions and sects for the inclusive development of the city.



In rich Karnataka, cash, freebies keep poll officials on their toes

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru:

TILL Wednesday, March 27, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Karnataka, had seized cash and other items worth Rs 55,76,67,520; this increased to Rs 60,38,41,15 on Thursday, March 28 -- an indication of the quantum of money involved in the Lok Sabha elections in the state.

During the last elections, the Election Commission had expressed concern over financially rich states and the challenge of holding fair elections, and Karnataka had topped the list then. EC officials echo the same concern this year too.

CEO, Karnataka, Manoj Kumar Meena told The New Indian Express that the use of money in elections is a matter of concern in the state, which is why they had started holding meetings, raids and seizures six months ahead. Cross-border meetings had also started six months ago, and checks were intensified.

Meena said seizures would rise in the coming days, with the filing of nominations. "We will need to be more vigilant. We are also working with special teams from other departments, including narcotics, customs, civil aviation, commercial taxes, IT and others. Though paramilitary teams are deployed, additional teams will also be deployed," he said.

As per data, the seizures include sarees and other items worth Rs 2,51,86,306, besides freebies of Rs 65,43,178. Enforcement officials seized gold worth Rs 9,01,82,132, silver worth Rs 26,19,340 and diamonds worth Rs 9,00,000.

An election official noted that liquor and cash seizures are also on the rise. Till March 28, 2024, liquor worth Rs 26,35,95,935 has been seized, this includes spurious and unaccounted-for liquor. Static Surveillance Teams, Flying Squads, Police and I-T department have seized Rs 20,14,99,187 in cash. Drugs worth Rs 88,37,280 were also seized so far.

Even before the model code of conduct was announced, from August 1, 2023, to March 14, 2024, election officials had seized items worth Rs 537.51 crore. They had also filed 4,710 FIRs for the same period.

A senior election official said soon after the first phase of elections is over, police, paramilitary forces and other security personnel will be sent to Karnataka as additional forces. "The exact number of security personnel cannot be disclosed, but the number to be deployed here is on the rise. We have also identified sensitive constituencies, booths and districts, where special security measures are being put in place. The Election Commission will be approached for more forces, if need be," said the official.

Transport dept officials intensify vehicle checks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

With campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections picking up pace, the transport department has intensified vehicle checking across the state.

Apart from the routine checking at check-posts, transport officials are also now rigorously taking note of vehicle documents and goods being transported besides alerting the Election Commission and departments concerned in case they intercept vehicles transporting money or liquor.

"The transport department is an enforcement agency. Karnataka shares borders with states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The department has only 15 check-posts, but the district commissioners of districts bordering other states set up composite check-posts involving officials from the transport, police, excise, commercial taxes and others departments," Transport Commissioner Yogeesh told *The New Indian Express*.

At check-posts, transport officials check vehicle documents and violations under the Motor Vehicle Act. "However, if we find illegal transportation of money or liquor or anything suspicious as the elections are approaching, we immediately inform the departments concerned like the excise, commercial tax, income tax and others," said Yogeesh.

He said till now, transport officials have not come across any illegal transportation of money or liquor.

IN THE FRAY

KPCC president DK Shivakumar hands over Form B to Congress' Bangalore South candidate Sowmya Reddy at his residence in Bengaluru on Friday

Cong seeks AAP support for K'taka campaign

Bengaluru: With the BJP-JDS alliance partners holding a coordination meeting as NDA partners, in view of the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress and AAP, allies in the I.N.D.I.A bloc, are likely to adopt a similar strategy in Karnataka. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had written to AAP state chief Mukyamantri Chandru to ensure cooperation of AAP workers in supporting Congress candidates. It was necessary to polarise the secular votes and defeat communal forces in order to protect democracy, he said. In response, Chandru extended the support of AAP workers and office bearers to Congress candidates. "For the last 10 years, democracy has received a jolt with the government misusing investigative agencies and the country on the verge of dictatorship. Which is why the AAP leadership took a decision to go with the I.N.D.I.A bloc to fight the LS polls," he claimed. **ENS**

INTERVIEW

BJP jittery over Cong resurgence, guarantee schemes, claims Prof Gowda

Congress candidate from **Bengaluru North Lok Sabha constituency, Rajeev Gowda**, in an interview with Mohammed Yacoob, was confident of pulling off a victory. He feels his rival BJP candidate, Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje, will see a backlash from voters for her recent anti-Tamil and anti-Muslim remarks.

Congress won only three assembly seats out of eight in Bengaluru North segment. What's your strategy in this background?

We have a tremendous resurgence across constituencies. In KR Puram, our candidate was very active and we got a very good vote share, and are certain to get a good lead this time. In Dasarahalli seat, the JDS ex-MLA who secured second place in the 2023 election, has joined the Congress. Yeshwanthpur MLA ST Somashekhar will be very supportive while in Mahalakshmi Layout and Malleswaram assembly seats too, we are becoming strong. BJP candidates seek votes in somebody else's name. BJP itself realised its candidate was MP for 10 years and changed him.

What gives you the confidence to say Congress will win Bengaluru North this time?

First is our five guarantees. The other is poor performance of the BJP. Bad economy, price rise, farmers' issues, unemployment, disempowering women etc will also matter. There have been foreign policy failures like Ladakh. The PM hesitates to mention which country has taken over a portion of Ladakh, and has forgotten that Manipur is part of India. BJP has been hostile to Karnataka, and has cheated us. The Centre failed to give our dues that were mandated by the Finance Commission. They have not released drought relief funds. In Karnataka, voters have become aware that voting for the BJP is equal to voting against the interest of the state. People have a lot of anger. This apart, the family of the candidate will play a major role. My father MV Venkatappa was a Speaker and my mother Subadhra Venkatappa was a social worker, my uncle BD Parthasarathy has also done work for the Vokkaliga community.

Q&A

North Bengaluru has nearly 30 lakh voters, the highest number. What is the winning margin you are looking at?

Victory is victory, whether the margin is one vote or more. My uncle MV Krishnappa had won the Hoskote Lok Sabha seat with a 2-lakh margin. I will be happy to match his record.

Why should people vote for you?

I was in the Rajya Sabha for six years. People will be electing a candidate who is educated and qualified and who understands political issues and complexities. Even the PM has respected my views. I was a professor at IIM-B, served on the RBI Central Board, have mentored start-ups and NGOs. I also have a track record of serving the city by bringing in Metro feeder buses and working on climate action. I have the ability and vision to serve the people with commitment.

Either we win this election for the I.N.D.I.A bloc or we are going to face a future where our freedom will be diminished

Rajeev Gowda, Bengaluru North Lok Sabha constituency

What are your plans for Bengaluru North if elected?

The priority would be water and traffic. People are concerned about infrastructure. When we speak about water, we have to rejuvenate lakes. We have to put in additional lanes on Hebbal flyover and also in front of Cauvery theatre. We are going to see the transformation. I have been a long-time advocate of the suburban rail. These are the solutions for North Bengaluru. It is growing and has many new areas and requires a cultural centre and sports centre. I will also consult people and seek their suggestions.

Your opponent is Shobha Karandlaje, who is now Union Minister of State. Don't you think she has an edge over you?

I will just give some performance-related points. If you ask the people of Udupi-Chikkamagaluru whether my opponent was a formidable MP in terms of development, they may tell you the truth. Even her own party workers started 'go-back' campaigns against her. When it comes to the interest of Karnataka, Karandlaje or her colleagues did not pick up issues and fight for the rights of the state. Attempts to target Tamilians or create a communal disturbance is not the way to go forward. We are trying to elect a parliamentarian, we are not trying to elect someone who will divide us or set fire to our homes by creating divisions between communities. We are going to defeat her and make sure negative and communal politics ends in the country, starting from Bengaluru North.

Yours is the largest Lok Sabha segment. Which segment is crucial for you?

Every vote is important, especially of first-time voters. Youngsters need to know that we are fighting to save our Constitution and democracy. We are seeing the BJP destroy independent institutions, be it the Supreme Court, ED or Income Tax department, which are being misused to target the opposition. The BJP has got the bank account of the opposition party frozen. The Delhi CM has been arrested and jailed when there is no money trail.

Either we win this election for the I.N.D.I.A bloc or we are going to face a future where our freedom will be diminished.

Your picture with BJP leader DV Sadananda Gowda is going viral, what is your response?

We were invited to a house warming function and we met there. We have been colleagues in Parliament earlier. I sought his blessings and he said it is always there for me. There is no need to read more into it.

The BJP talks big on development. It has been in power for 20 years in MP, but it has not done anything for Chhindwara. Whoever forms the government, we will work for the people.

Kamal Nath, Congress leader

This newspaper takes a close look at the elections since 1951 when the 1st democratic exercise took place, four years after India got Independence

FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY

*Vote share in percentage

1951

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	479	364	44.99
BJS	94	3	3.06
CPI	49	16	3.29
KMPP	145	9	5.79
SP (Socialist Party)	254	12	10.59

1957

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	490	371	47.78
BJS	130	4	5.97
CPI	110	27	8.29
PSP	189	19	10.41
Other state parties	119	31	7.60

1962

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	488	361	44.72
BJS	196	14	6.44
CPI	137	29	9.94
PSP	168	12	6.81
SWA	173	18	7.89

1967

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	516	283	40.78
BJS	249	35	9.31
CPI	109	23	5.11
CPM	59	19	4.28
SWA	178	44	8.67

1971

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	441	352	40.78
BJS	157	22	7.35
CPI	87	23	4.73
CPM	85	25	5.12
SWA	59	8	3.07

1977

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	492	154	34.52
BLD	405	295	41.32
CPI	91	7	2.82
CPM	53	22	4.29
NCO	19	3	1.72

1980

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC(I)	492	353	42.69
INC(U)	212	13	5.28
CPI	47	10	2.49
CPM	64	37	6.24
JNP	433	31	18.97
JNP (S)	293	41	9.39

1984

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	491	404	49.10
BJP	224	2	7.74
CPI	61	6	2.71
CPM	59	22	5.87
JNP	207	10	6.89

1989

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	510	197	39.33
BJP	225	85	11.36
CPI	50	12	2.57
CPM	64	33	6.55
JD	244	143	17.79
JNP	155	0	1.01

1991

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	487	232	36.26
BJP	468	120	20.11
CPI	42	14	2.49
CPM	60	35	6.16
JD	308	59	11.84
JP	349	5	3.37

1996

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	529	140	28.80
BJP	471	161	20.29
CPI	43	12	1.97
CPM	75	32	6.12
JD	196	46	8.08
JP	101	0	0.19

1998

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	477	141	25.82
BJP	388	182	25.59
CPI	58	9	1.75
CPM	71	32	5.16
SAP	57	12	1.76
BSP	251	5	4.67

PARTING WAYS

Before the first Lok Sabha elections in 1951, two former cabinet colleagues of Nehru went on to create separate political parties to challenge the supremacy of Indian National Congress. Dalit leader BR Ambedkar reintroduced the Scheduled Castes Federation, later named Republican Party. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee founded Jana Sangh in October 1951.

INDEPENDENT INDIA'S 1ST GENERAL ELECTIONS WERE HELD BETWEEN OCTOBER 25, 1951 AND FEBRUARY 21, 1952. IT WAS A HUGE EXERCISE IN WHICH A SIXTH OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION CAST THEIR VOTE, MAKING IT THE LARGEST ELECTION HELD IN THE WORLD AT THE TIME

1999

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	453	114	28.30
BJP	339	182	23.75
CPI	54	4	1.48
CPM	72	33	5.40
BSP	225	14	4.16
JD(U)	60	21	3.10

2004

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	417	145	26.53
BJP	364	138	22.16
CPI	34	10	1.41
CPM	69	43	5.66
BSP	435	19	5.33
NCP	32	9	1.80

2009

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	440	206	28.55
BJP	433	116	18.80
CPI	56	4	1.43
CPM	82	16	5.33
BSP	500	21	6.17
NCP	68	9	2.04

2014

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	464	44	19.52
BJP	428	282	31.34
CPI	67	1	0.79
CPM	93	9	3.28
BSP	503	0	4.19
NCP	36	6	1.58

2019

PARTY	SEATS CONTESTED	SEATS WON	VOTE SHARE
INC	421	52	19.67
BJP	436	303	37.7
CPI	49	2	0.59
CPM	69	3	1.77
AITC	62	22	4.1
BSP	383	10	3.66
NCP	34	5	1.4

(Source: Election Commission of India)

Cong likely to field Dikshit, Agarwal, Raj from Delhi

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

THE Congress has finalised its candidates for the three parliamentary seats the party will be contesting in alliance with the AAP in Delhi. The party has decided to field Sandeep Dikshit, former East Delhi MP and son of late Sheila Dikshit, from the Chandni Chowk constituency, former MP Jai Prakash Agarwal from North-East and IRS officer-turned politician Udit Raj for North-West reserved seat.

A formal announcement of their candidature is likely to be made next week. According to sources, there is a chance that the party may swap seats of Dikshit and Agarwal. Dikshit was an MP from East Delhi and is widely known in the adjoining North-East Delhi constituency. Agarwal has represented both Chandni Chowk as well as North-East Delhi in Parliament.

The Congress leadership has had many rounds of discussions on the winnability of candidates proposed by the state unit and finalised the names of Dikshit, Agarwal and Raj as the best candidates for the three constituencies. The BJP and the AAP have already announced all their candidates for Delhi.

It is ironic that Dikshit's candidature will be supported by CM Arvind Kejriwal's AAP, which stormed into power in the national capital on the promise of exposing the then CM Sheila Dikshit and sending her to jail.

The Congress was routed in the 2020 Delhi assembly elections, but stood second in five parliamentary constituencies in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The AAP stood second in two.

Oppn deal: RJD 26, Cong 9 and Left 5

The Bihar grand-alliance seat-sharing formula for 40 Lok Sabha constituencies finalised

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE RJD-led Mahagathbandhan in Bihar, which is a part of 'INDIA' bloc at the national level, on Friday announced seat-sharing arrangements for the Lok Sabha elections in the state.

As per the seat-sharing deal, the RJD will contest 26 out of the 40 seats in the state. While the Congress will nominate its candidates on nine seats, CPI-ML will field its candidates on three followed by CPI and CPM on one seat each.

The RJD has already nominated the candidates for the first phase of election to be held on April 19.

Former state minister and senior RJD leader Abdul Bari Siddiqui announced the seat-sharing arrangements among constituents of the grand alliance in the presence of RJD state president Jagadanand Singh and Bihar Congress chief Akhilesh Prasad Singh.

Former deputy chief minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav was, however, conspicuous by his "presence". Earlier, he was scheduled to announce the seat-sharing deal among constituents of the grand alliance. RJD, Congress, CPI-ML, CPI and CPM are allies of the grand alliance.

RJD will contest Gaya, Nawada, Jehabanabad, Aurangabad, Buxar, Patliputra, Munger, Jamui, Banka, Valmikinagar, Purvi Champaran, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Vaishali, Saran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Ujiarpur, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Jhanjharpur, Supaul, Madhepura, Purnea, Araria and Hajipur seats.

Congress has been allocated Kishanganj, Katihar, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur (SC), Paschimi Champaran, Patna Sahib, Sasaram (SC) and Maharajganj seats.

CPI-ML will field its candidates on Ara, Karakat and Nalanda seats, CPI on Begusarai seat and CPI(M) on Khagaria seat.

RJD Rajya Sabha member and spokesperson Manoj Jha, who was present at the press conference, said that the names of the candidates would also be announced soon.

He claimed that the seat-sharing agreement has been reached through consensus and the 'INDIA' bloc would win all 40 seats. Disagreements over some seats among allies, however, delayed the official declaration of the agreement.

Bihar RJD chief Jagdanand Singh and state Congress chief Akhilesh Singh join hands with CPI-ML, CPM and other leaders on Friday | PTI

PAPPU SAYS WON'T REBEL OVER PURNEA

Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, who joined the Congress last week hoping to contest from Purnea in Bihar, on Friday ruled out the possibility of fighting as a rebel candidate, after the seat went to RJD. However, he spoke of "friendly fights" in several seats among INDIA bloc partners.

I am committed to making Rahul Gandhi the country's Prime Minister and helping the Congress revive in Bihar where, five years from now, it will be a force to reckon with in all 40 Lok Sabha seats

Pappu Yadav, Former MP

Congress leader and former Maharashtra CM Sushil Kumar Shinde and others at an Iftar party during Ramzan in Solapur on Friday | PTI

Cong in Maha 'friendly fight' with MVA allies in 5 seats if no consensus

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Congress high command on Friday gave the green signal to the Maharashtra party unit to have a friendly contest on five Lok Sabha constituencies if the alliance partners refuse to concede the seats to them, party sources said.

The Maharashtra Congress unit held a meeting of its top leaders to discuss the seat-sharing differences with alliance partners -- Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP).

"Congress is keen to contest these five Lok Sabha seats -- Sangli, Bhiwandi, Mumbai South Central, Mumbai North East, and Mumbai North West. But Shiv Sena (UBT) has staked claim over all Mumbai seats. Also it has asked for Sangli," a Congress leader said, requesting anonymity.

"NCP (SP) is asking for Bhiwandi though they do not have a strong candidate. In Sangli, Sena (UBT) has neither a candidate nor the network. This is not acceptable to us. We informed our strong feelings to the party high command," the leader said.

Another leader said the Congress high command has given the green signal for friendly contests in these disputed seats.

"We surely want the alliance with Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) but are not ready to concede the seats where our winning chances are high. The partners want to grow but we are not here to run a charitable trust and throw our stronghold seats to BJP," he added.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said, "Shiv Sena is the big brother in Maharashtra, so it will contest more seats." He said the Congress should leave more seats to them because they want to make Rahul Gandhi the prime minister.

"Maha Vikas Aghadi is messing up the positive atmosphere. Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar feel that sympathy is enough to win seats. It's not correct, most of their active workers left them. Congress workers are solidly behind the party.

They all have to understand that they need each other. If anyone thinks otherwise, they are spoiling the food before it is eaten," said a political analyst.

SAFFRON STAR

'Queen' hits the campaign trail in Mandi

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

BJP's Kangana Ranaut on Friday began her Lok Sabha election campaign from her hometown Mandi in Himachal Pradesh with a road show. "Don't think Kangana is a heroine, that she is a star... consider Kangana your sister, your daughter; everyone is my family," she said and hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a high-pitched 'Jai Shri Ram.'

A large number of people turned up to see the Bollywood actor, a four-time National Award winner born in Bhambla town of Mandi. Amidst the chants of "Jai Shri Ram", the BJP workers welcomed Ranaut by showering flowers on her and dancing to drum beats.

BJP candidate actor Kangana Ranaut during a roadshow ahead of Lok Sabha elections, in Mandi of Himachal Pradesh on Friday | EXPRESS

"You can see the large gathering here. They are all proud that the daughter of Mandi will represent the constituency," Ranaut said as she started the road show in her home town with 'Modi ji ko Jai Shri Ram.' She also hailed other BJP leaders with similar slogans.

"Development is the BJP's main agenda and we will spare no effort to win the elections under the guidance of PM Modi," she said.

Crediting Modi for bringing about "change in the country" since 2014, Ranaut said a feeling of pride and nationalism has prevailed among Indians.

This was Ranaut's first public appearance in her constituency after she received the BJP ticket on March 24. In October 2022, Ranaut said she was open to contesting from Mandi if the BJP offered her the ticket.

The Mandi seat is represented by Himachal Congress chief Pratibha Singh, the wife of former CM Virbhadra Singh and mother of Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh. She won the 2021 LS bypolls.

EDITORIAL

Medicine is an imperfect science, an enterprise of constantly changing knowledge, uncertain information, fallible individuals

Atul Gawande

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

L-G SHOULD ALLOW KEJRIWAL FULL LEGAL RECOURSE

THE chief minister of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD), Arvind Kejriwal, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged case of receiving bribes for giving out liquor licences, has refused to resign; his party has announced he will continue to run the state government from jail. The CM has issued two orders from jail. In carrying on his duties from behind bars, Kejriwal is leaning on the principle of presumption of innocence until guilt is proven. Kejriwal has maintained he is only an accused, not a convict.

The Supreme Court's landmark 2013 judgement in the *Lily Thomas* case said that a lawmaker would get automatically disqualified as a member of the legislature if convicted for two years or more. The Aam Aadmi Party has maintained that Kejriwal is not yet convicted and that he would ultimately be released. The party has rightly argued that if the ED and CBI succeed in proving their case, *Lily Thomas* will automatically kick in and the chief minister will resign. There is no case for seeking the CM's resignation merely on the basis of politically motivated charges. But there are other legal provisions that need to be looked into. Article 239AB of the Constitution may come into play in the current situation. This provision, incorporated specifically for the NCTD, is similar to Article 356—it empowers the lieutenant-governor of Delhi to recommend imposition of president's rule by suspending the assembly. Delhi L-G V K Saxena has already announced he will not allow the state's government to be run from jail.

This has put the AAP government in Delhi and the Union government, represented by the L-G, on a collision course. But the AAP argument based on the presumption of innocence doctrine stands on sound legal ground. It was because of this legal position that the Delhi High Court on Thursday rejected a petition seeking Kejriwal's removal as CM. The court said there is no legal bar for Kejriwal continuing as CM. However, it did not go into the jurisdiction of the L-G and said the L-G was examining the issue and the president may look into it. The L-G should take a cue from the court's decision and refrain from rushing into seeking the CM's dismissal.

FINDING WAYS TO LISTEN TO TMK

THE bestowal of an award to a musician of unquestioned *oeuvre* has divided the rarefied world of Carnatic music. The artiste in question is T M Krishna, who even detractors admit is a maestro deserving of recognition. Yet, the powerful Music Academy's decision to honour the Magsaysay awardee with the prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi has resulted in some upset musicians announcing that they will not be performing at the Academy, a premium venue, during the December music season. The reason for this anger among a section of musicians and fans is Krishna's progressive anti-caste political views. He has not only sharply criticised the Carnatic music establishment as insular and caste-privileged, but has also embraced and celebrated in his music E V 'Periyar' Ramasamy, an icon to many but not all. He has also critiqued some venerated figures, an act that some artistes view as beyond the pale. Although Krishna, a thoughtful writer, has admitted and challenged his own privileges while trying to take music out of the confines of the sabhas—to fishing villages and corporation schools—his interventions have often been met with by anger from members of his own community. The Academy, despite the flak, has admirably stood by its decision, even as political figures from across the spectrum have weighed in.

There is a broader conversation to be had at this moment. At least some of the artistes upset by the Academy's decision have also turned around and asked the Academy, if it is committed to making the arts truly inclusive, to remove from its leadership those privileged by caste and connections and allow others to step in. While some have poked fun at this as an unintentionally Periyarist demand, it is true that the goal of making classical music accessible to all can only be realised by encouraging diversity and ceding power to those currently perceived as outsiders. Too often, the world of Indian classical arts appears trapped in a time warp that, without intelligent, good-faith interlocution pushing artistes and audiences to question their own beliefs and challenge the orthodoxy, will face the risk of stultification. Artistes such as Krishna embody the power of music—and politics—to connect people, challenge the status quo and open doors. His views should be considered, not ignored; his art respected, not dismissed; his legacy honoured, not boycotted.

QUICK TAKE

CITIZENS BE ON GUARD

THE Election Commission's cVIGIL app has netted complaints of over 79,000 violations since the poll code has kicked in; the commission claims it has disposed of 99 percent of the cases. This is a wonderful tool to keep a nationwide vigil on campaign excesses. But almost three-fourths of the complaints were about illegal banners. Among the more worrying transgressions, only 1,400 complaints were about money, gifts and liquor distribution, 535 about display of firearms and intimidation, and 1,000 for campaigning too late and blaring speakers. This tells us the EC needs to promote the app more widely and citizens need to use it with gusto.

The world is negotiating a pandemic treaty to strengthen global health response. But as long as rich countries pursue their trade interests, equity will remain elusive

INEQUALITIES IN THE GLOBAL HEALTH DIALOGUE

K SRINATH REDDY

Distinguished Professor of Public Health, PHFI

JUST over four years ago, a novel virus emerged to trigger the Covid-19 pandemic. As it rampaged across the world, spawning an unprecedented terror of death and spinning national economies into unanticipated turbulence, the pandemic demanded a coordinated global response. A rallying cry for global solidarity rang loud—"No country is safe till every country is safe!" Not only did the virus spread fast, the variants that emerged from different parts of the world exhibited greater infectivity and competed for global conquest. Global cooperation became critical for the survival of humanity. However, this realisation did not readily translate into reality when it came to sharing data, resources and technologies.

Recognising the failures that hindered a unified global thrust against a global threat, the world is now negotiating a Pandemic Treaty for prevention, preparation and response (PPR). This effort, under the auspices of the World Health Organization, is expected to emerge in May 2024. Simultaneously, a revision of the International Health Regulations is also under negotiation. It is intended to improve global surveillance, notification, containment and data sharing arrangements that all countries must subscribe and adhere to.

While the WHO has been designated as the world's premier public health agency, its ability to 'govern' or even steer global health policies is greatly limited by two major constraints. The first is a low level of committed financing from member countries, making it dependent on a few high-income countries (HICs) and private foundations. The second is the emergence of other influential actors in global health, such as multilateral development banks (MDBs), other multilateral UN organisations and large private foundations. Each of these actors is influenced by the priorities of HICs, making global health policy development a skewed process.

The dominance of HICs in shaping health policies and programmes has long been a historical feature as 'global health' evolved through several stages in the 19th and 20th centuries. In the era of European colonisation of Asia, Africa and South America, there was concern over infectious diseases that occurred in the 'natives'. The colonisers were afraid their soldiers, traders and administrators, who collectively represented colonial power and enabled capture, would contract deadly or disfiguring diseases like malaria, smallpox or leprosy. So 'tropical medicine' emerged as a priority. While sections of the local populations benefited from these efforts, the principal aim was to protect the colonisers and also labouring natives who created wealth for the colonial power. Research into tropical diseases was encouraged to protect the economic and military interests of the colonial powers.

SOURAV ROY

In the post-colonial era, tropical medicine was transformed into 'international health'. HICs still engaged with the newly independent countries, but through 'development aid' and 'technical assistance'. European countries were joined by other HICs like the US, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The former Soviet Union too provided some support, but the arena of international health was dominated by the western alliance. Aid for health was an instrument of trade policy, to create markets for vaccines, antibiotics and other antimicrobial drugs. Infectious diseases remained priority, though maternal and child health also acquired prominence over time. Population control too became a priority as expanding populations in low- and middle-income countries were viewed as detrimental to economic development and a possible threat to western hegemony.

With the emergence of HIV-AIDS as a major threat in the later decades of the 20th century international health hit the panic button and transformed itself into 'global health'. New multilateral agencies were created, like UNAIDS. George W Bush launched the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which provided support to HIV-affected countries, especially in Africa. The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria came into being in 2002 as an initiative of the G8 countries.

The World Bank became increasingly influential in health, setting terms for providing financial assistance to LMICs in the form of soft loans. 'Health sector reforms' and 'restructuring' became prescriptions to LMICs, as neo-liberal economic policies began to hold sway in HICs who play a major role in determining the priorities of the World Bank and other MDBs. In recent years, these banks have recognised the damage done to the health sector in LMICs through such prescriptions and are becoming more responsive to country priorities.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) were excluded from the aid ambit, despite evidence of their high and rising burdens in LMICs. It was only when large 'emerging economies' among LMICs started including NCDs among their government-funded health programmes and as a component of universal coverage that manufacturers of NCD-related drugs and devices in HICs recognised a huge opportunity. Accordingly, governments of HICs and MDBs too belatedly acknowledged NCDs as a 'new' global health priority.

It was expected that the Covid experience would change the situation of power asymmetry in global health. Inter-dependence was clearly recognised as a feature of the interconnected world, with consensus building in global health policymaking processes and collaborative design of health programmes seen as inescapable requirements. However, HICs continue to pursue trade interests at the cost of health equity, undermining efficiency and oblivious to empathy. Despite bitter lessons of vaccine equity during the active phase of the pandemic, HICs opposed the India-South Africa initiative for patent waivers on vaccines, drugs and diagnostics (at the WTO). Even during the ongoing negotiations on the pandemic treaty, 'intellectual property' is being fiercely defended. Their defence of proprietary science is sacrificing public good while shielding private profit.

A new global order is needed, where collective welfare must guide global economic, social and environmental policies. While the WHO must remain a key coordinating agency, all actors engaged in public health must commit to global health equity in word and deed. The Covid pandemic as well as accelerating climate change provided us this strong message. Global health must reinvent itself as a common global good. LMICs must assertively play a strong role in determining the future form, function and governance of global health.

(Views are personal)
(ksrinath.reddy@phfi.org)

PRANAB BARDHAN: REFLECTIONS FROM A LIFE WELL TRAVELLED

PRATIK KANJILAL

For years, he has been speaking easy to a surprisingly tolerant public

SPEAKEASY

PRANAB Bardhan calls his latest book *Charaiveti* an "academic's quasi-memoir". It's not so much about himself as about people he's known, places he's been, interesting times he's witnessed, like the Indian Emergency and the Tiananmen Square crackdown. It's the life of a widely-travelled economics teacher. But cultural references from an age that is almost history enlivens the narrative—Czeslaw Milosz, Thomas Mann, Antonio Gramsci, Iris Murdoch in literature, Bruno Bozzetto interpreting Maurice Ravel in cinema, *memento mori* provided by Yudhishthira and Aeschylus. "The curse of old age is the paralysing sense of pervasive loss, more than one's own physical infirmities and indignities," writes Bardhan.

Charaiveti is a collection of Bardhan's general interest columns (see shorturl.at/kyzF0). The word, uttered by Indra in the *Rigveda*, is an exhortation to keep moving on. The note to self by Bardhan, who left his land but not his culture, has special resonance today, when the migrant is becoming the face of the globalised world. This is even more true today than it was almost a decade ago, when a photograph of Alan Kurdi, a child drowned during a Mediterranean crossing to Europe, moved the world's conscience. But not for ever. The other day, Donald Trump, who is lining up another shot at the White House, said some illegal immigrants are "not human".

That's rhetoric for an anti-immigration poll campaign, which has been projecting a fictitious immigrant *Anschluss* and crime wave in American cities. It raises a scare among voters because, while illegal immigration on foot continues from neighbouring countries, the number of undocumented Indians in the US has been growing at the rate of 70 percent. The phenomenon is so big it merited its own Shahrukh Khan movie, *Dunki*, in spite of horror stories like that of a Gujarat family dying of exposure within yards of the US-Canada border.

The surprise element of that tragedy was the nature of the family: it was visibly middle class and a nuclear family, while emigration out of India has been led by men with nothing to lose. The new Indian illegal immigrant is a different class—someone whose assets can finance a journey halfway around the world, plus traffickers' fees.

Traffic from India has been rising since 2010, when the UPA2 government began to lose credibility by the India Against Corruption movement. In 2019-20, the AfrAsia Bank's Global Wealth Migration Review noted the exit of over 7,000 high net-worth people from India. Now, passport trackers Henley & Partners reveal another twist: Indian millionaires, travelling legally, are jettisoning the Indian passport in ever-larger numbers. India's poor have always moved for lack of prospects, right back to the *girmitiyas* lured into taking one-way passages to the Caribbean. But when the rich begin to move, alarm bells should start ringing.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Pranab Bardhan's latest book, *Charaiveti*, is as much about his own life in economics as about global cultural references from a lively era. It prompts questions about changing socio-economic profiles of Indians emigrating in ever-larger numbers

Ironically, a World Inequality Lab paper suggests Indian rich are far more advantaged than their peers in South Africa, Brazil and the US. The paper's focus is the "billionaire raj", but the irony applies even to people whose worth can be expressed with three zeroes fewer. When they leave, they are trading creature comforts for greater security, perhaps from a grasping government and its enforcement agencies, and, as Kaushik Basu has pointed out, youth unemployment that could trigger a social crisis.

Many Indians who headed for the US after Independence were between the extremes of rich and poor. They were middle class, a demographic much smaller then than it is today. And within it was a tiny segment of economists, some of the most prominent being Bengalis from Kolkata, via Delhi. Bardhan attributes this phenomenon to "high standards of undergraduate economics teaching in Presidency College for post-war decades, begun by professors like Bhabatosh Datta", and carried forward by teachers like Dipak Banerjee, Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee's father. Sukhamoy Chakravarty and Amartya Sen served as role models. Many of them also taught at the Delhi School of Economics, a transit point to Western campuses. Economics in the capital was more multicultural than in Kolkata, with the presence of scholars such as K N Raj, Jagdish Bhagwati and the still-redoubtable Subramanian Swamy.

"Starting from the obscure crevice of a poor neighbourhood in north Kolkata, I have traversed a stretched-out, rather cosmopolitan life," writes Bardhan. His family migrated from present-day Bangladesh, but his grounding in Indian academia eased the transition to campuses overseas. He recounts he left India bound for Glasgow, but a timely intervention by Amartya Sen brought him to the much livelier Cambridge, UK. Later, at Berkeley, US, a student protested when he included some school-level calculus in a course. She had chosen yoga over calculus at school. It would have been unthinkable in an Indian school.

What's interesting about Bardhan's account is he had almost the same advantages and problems as immigrants of lesser standing, like South Asian storekeepers. His wife and he found it difficult to find accommodation in Cambridge, like Muslims in north Indian metros do today. Equally, Bardhan suffers the pain of all first generation migrants—they are neither at home in their home countries nor in their adopted homes, and seek wistful comfort in the thought that perhaps they are world citizens. Sadly, huge numbers of new migrants, displaced by economic and political failures, are perhaps dwelling on that now.

(On X @pratik_k)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Money, muscle

Ref: *EC must curb money power in elections, onus on voters too* (Mar 29). The two requisite qualifications to contest elections in India, from gram panchayat to assembly and parliament, seem to be money bags and umpteen criminal cases pending against candidates. The Election Commission has the sharp teeth needed to curb these evils, but rarely uses them.

Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Fortune required

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's succinct remark reveals one has to pump in crores of rupees to fight elections. When humongous amounts of money are needed even to fight a corporation election, it is something beyond the shadow of a dream to fight parliamentary elections.

R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

Question compatriots

Nirmala Sitharaman's statement shows that she knows just how much money is required to fight elections. Then, being the finance minister, why has she not moved against our councillors and legislators? None of our central agencies question them on how their assets increase year on year. Why has the FM not questioned her legislative compatriots?

S Kamat, Mysuru

Limit seats

We have 543 elected seats in the Lok Sabha; the two-thirds majority needed for any far-reaching change is marked at 359. I am afraid that if any ruling coalition gets to numbers like 400 and above, the voice of the opposition will be so feeble that meaningful debate will not be possible. Thus, a law must be brought to limit any coalition to contest only in 370 to 375 seats out of the 543.

Krishnaswamy N Ponnani, Palakkad

Wagging finger

It is inappropriate for the US and Germany to point fingers at the Indian judiciary and democratic systems by advising an impartial, free and fair trial for Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal. The West seems to be afraid of India's growing clout in global politics, particularly in economics.

Hullasa Behera, Bhubaneswar

Kejriwal's fears

Ref: *Kejri argues his case, sees plot to crush party* (Mar 29). Arvind Kejriwal has hinted at a political conspiracy being hatched by the central government to finish off the AAP. If he is right, the objective could be realised soon as the top leadership of the party is already behind bars.

C V Aravind, Chennai

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 60, No. 78 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

K C Venugopal @kcvenugopalmp
INDIA is firmly committed to defending our democracy from the fascist forces. We are all uniting to give message against the ways BJP is destroying voice of opposition.

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
When the govt changes, action will definitely be taken against those who 'rape democracy'! Action will be taken that no one will dare to do this again.

Yashwant Sinha @YashwantSinha
What is happening to the officers in Telangana should be a lesson. They should fear for their future if there is a regime change after the LS elections.

Need to develop green GDP: Modi

Tells Bill Gates when his new govt returns to power, he'll allocate money for cancer research

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR & KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi with Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates during a meeting at his residence in New Delhi on Friday | PTI

CAUGHT amid a rising campaign temperature for the parliamentary polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told philanthropist and Microsoft co-founder Bill Cates that parameters used to measure progress are detrimental to climate and suggested developing the concept of a green gross domestic product.

The Prime Minister also said that when his new government returns to power, he will allocate money for research in cervical cancer to save the lives of young girls. "In the coming days, I want to talk about cervical cancer, especially for our daughters. I want to give a budget to our scientists in India. I want to tell them to do local research on this and make a vaccine," he said.

When Gates asked if the green approach could be made more affordable for easier adoption, Modi said the world needs to adopt a two-pronged strategy: first, nature and climate-friendly innovation, and second, environmentally-friendly lifestyles. Modi said, "Our current challenge is how we perceive progress. For example, a country's development is often judged by its steel consumption and energy usage. Based on these criteria, we calculate the country's economy."

"If we continue to rely on these parameters, we will consume more electricity and steel, resulting in increased carbon emissions. This means we need to change our mindset. We need to make lifestyle choices and measure progress in ways that are climate-friendly. Currently, all our measures of progress are detrimental to the climate," he said. Modi suggested the world adopt the concept of green GDP which would be incorporated into the overall Gross Domestic Product. "We need to change the global terminology," he said. Green GDP is an alternative metric for gauging economic growth which takes into consideration the environmental consequences linked to economic activities.

The PM said India has now started attaching top priority to the use of technologies and the AI in getting maximum results in agriculture, education, health and almost all sectors of developments.

In an AI-driven interaction at the prime minister's residence, Modi also expressed his serious concern over the misuse of AI. To check deepfakes, he suggested having a water mark on every AI-generated material. He also remarked that AI should not be used recklessly as a "magic tool."

To a question from Gates about how in India there was no vaccine resistance, which was seen in other countries, Modi said he was able to build trust between the people and the government.

Most common killer

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in India. India reported more than 14 lakh new cancer cases and over 9 lakh deaths due to the disease in 2022, according to WHO. Breast and cervix cancers were the most frequent ones among women, making up close to 27 and 18% of the new cases. In the interim Budget 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the government will encourage vaccination for girls aged 9-14 years to prevent cervical cancer.

Jaishankar, Ukraine FM talk peace formula, global security

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

> We had an open and wide-ranging conversations with focus on the ongoing conflict and its wider ramifications. Exchanged views on various initiatives in that context
>
> S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

WITH a focus on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and its ramifications, a peace formula and its implementation were discussed in the bilateral meeting between Ukrainian Foreign Minister **Dmytro Kuleba** and External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** on Friday.

"In New Delhi, I had sincere and comprehensive talks with Jaishankar and spoke about Ukrainian-Indian bilateral relations, the situation in our regions, and global security. We paid specific attention to the peace formula and next steps on the path of its implementation," said Kuleba.

They also co-chaired the Ukrainian-Indian intergovernmental commission (IGC) review meeting and agreed to restore the level of cooperation between the two countries that existed prior to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. "We also identified new promising projects to take our relations to the next level," Kuleba added.

Kuleba was on an official visit to Delhi at the invitation of Jaishankar. His two-day visit to India comes amid efforts to seek a peaceful resolution to the more than two-year-old Russia-Ukraine conflict. Kuleba arrived on Thursday.

"I was pleased to co-chair the review meeting of our intergovernmental commission with FM Kuleba of Ukraine. We noted the importance of further strengthening cooperation in all domains. Our immediate goal is to get trade back to earlier levels," said Jaishankar. The two ministers also exchanged perspectives on trade, health and agriculture cooperation. They also agreed to prepare for the 7th IGC meeting later this year.

"We had an open and wide-ranging conversations, our discussions focused on the ongoing conflict and its wider ramifications. Exchanged views on various initiatives in that context," he said.

They also spoke on global and regional issues of interest to both and reiterated their commitment to strengthening the relationship, including bilateral cooperation. The peace formula proposed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in 2022 follows 10 principles aimed at ensuring a just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 20 held separate conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Zelenskyy and said that dialogue and diplomacy were the way forward for the resolution of Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Seven convicted, 6 get life term in murder of former BSP MLA in Prayagraj

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

A special CBI court in Lucknow on Friday convicted seven persons and awarded life imprisonment to six of them in connection with the murder of BSP MLA **Raju Pal** in Prayagraj (then Allahabad) on January 25, 2005.

One of the accused Farhan was awarded a four-year jail term for possessing the weapons used in the murder. The CBI had filed a chargesheet against 10 people, including former gangster-turned-politicians Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf alia Khalid Azim.

Both the brothers were the main accused who had led the attack on the BSP MLA. Both were shot from point blank range by three persons while being taken for a routine medical check up to a hospital in police protection in Prayagraj, in April last year.

The Special Judge CBI, Lucknow, held Ranjeet Pal, Abid, Farhan Ahmad, Israr Ahmad, Javed, Gulhasan, and Abdul Kavi guilty in the case for criminal conspiracy and murder among other serious charges. Accused Farhan Ahmad was additionally held guilty under the Indian Arms Act. Besides Atiq and Ashraf, accused Gulphool Ahmad died during the trial in the 20-year-old case.

Significantly, on the directives of the Supreme Court, the probe into the case was transferred to the central investigating agency CBI on January 22, 2016 on a petition filed by deceased Raju Pal's widow Puja Pal. At the time of incident, Mulayam Singh Yadav was the CM and in 2016 when the case was transferred to CBI, his son Akhilesh Yadav was UP CM.

The murder of Pal in broad daylight, just nine days after his marriage, was the result of political rivalry as Raju Pal had won the Allahabad West seat in a bypoll defeating Atiq Ahmad's brother Ashraf in 2004.

The seat was vacated by Atiq after becoming an MP from Phoolpur in 2004 Lok Sabha polls. Ashraf had contested on the ticket of Samajwadi Party and lost it to Raju Pal, the BSP candidate.

Mukhtar Ansari: Rise & fall of mafia don with illustrious family legacy

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE death of gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, who straddled the two worlds — crime and politics — has drawn curtains on an era of crime and terror that plagued UP, especially its eastern and central regions, for four decades.

Mukhtar got implicated in his first criminal case in 1978 at the age of 15, followed by the first murder case in 1986, he ruled the political landscape of eastern UP by representing Mau, his constituency, and more of his fiefdom, for five terms since 1996 till 2017 through 2002, 2007, 2012.

Mukhtar had over 60 cases of multiple criminal offenses, including 16 of murder lodged against him. His gang IS 191 in police records was dubbed as the most notorious in the country by the Allahabad High Court, but his first conviction came through in September 2022. Since then, he was sentenced in eight of those over 60 cases till March 13, 2024.

In fact, Mukhtar had a very illustrious legacy behind him. He was born on June 30, 1963, into an educated family, with his grandfather Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari being a freedom fighter, a Congress president in 1927, a very close aide of Mahatma Gandhi, and one of the founders of Jamia Milia University in Delhi. Delhi's Ansari Road and Ansari Nagar near All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) are named after MA Ansari.

On the other hand, his maternal grandfather, Brigadier Mohammad Usman, was the highest-ranking official in the Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army) of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Even today, Brigadier Usman is the only military officer who made the supreme sacrifice in the battlefield while holding this rank (Brigadier) during the battle of Nowshera, which ultimately became a part of India in 1948.

"Death of mafia don Ansari is indeed the end of an era in UP's history of Bahubalis. If we talk about UP's Bahubalis, Mukhtar and Atiq Ahmed used to top the list of most notorious criminals. It is all passe now," said Brij Lal, former DGP of UP.

Popularly known as Mukhtar junior, Ansari was the youngest among three brothers. Sigbatullah is eldest followed by Afzaal. A cricket buff, Ansari completed his schooling and graduation in Ghazipur, his home district in eastern UP.

During the early 1970s, when Mukhtar was still in his teens, he got drawn towards Makhanu Singh gang and got embroiled in a case of criminal intimidation lodged against him in Saidpur police station in 1978.

Brilliant forefathers

Mukhtar had a very illustrious legacy behind him. His grandfather Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari was a freedom fighter, a Congress president in 1927, a close aide of Mahatma Gandhi, and one of the founders of Jamia Milia University. Delhi's Ansari Road and Ansari Nagar near AIIMS are named after him. His maternal grandfather, Brigadier Mohammad Usman, was the highest-ranking official in the Azad Hind Fauj of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

CBI chargesheets 20 institutes, 105 individuals in HP scholarship scam

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

FOLLOWING the conclusion of its investigation, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday has filed chargesheets in the Himachal Pradesh multi-crore scholarship scam and named 20 institutions and 105 individuals as accused.

According to the chargesheet, those who have been made accused, include the owners of educational institutes, the staff of Directorate of Higher Education, Shimla; bank officials and other private persons involved in the misuse of funds under scholarship and reimbursement scheme of fees launched by the Centre and implemented through the state government to help the students of SC, ST and OBC categories.

The CBI alleged that the scam started in 2012-13, when the scholarships for SC, ST and OBC students of the state for pre-metric and post-metric students under 36 schemes were not paid to the eligible students.

Noting that that 80 per cent of the scholarship money was paid to the private institutions, the CBI alleged that the scam was unearthed following reports that the students of the government schools in the tribal Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul and Spiti district had not been paid a scholarship for the five years.

"A case was registered by the CBI in 2019 on request of the Himachal Pradesh government against the private educational institutions in the state for fake and fraudulent claims of scholarships of around ₹181 crore during 2013 to 2017," a senior agency official said.

Searches were conducted at about 30 places which led to the recovery of incriminating documents and subsequently, 19 accused, including the chairman, vice-chairman, directors and employees of the educational institutes; bank officials and officials of the education department were arrested.

Twenty two educational institutions were on the CBI radar for not only committing irregularities but also for allegedly asking the students to pay money for the release of scholarship.

Choose online learning courses wisely: UGC

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE University Grants Commission (UGC) has cautioned students to select suitable courses and programmes before joining any higher education university offering open and online education.

UGC Chairman **M Jagadesh Kumar** requested students to consider seven parameters before joining any Open and Distance Learning (ODL) or Online Learning programmes.

The UGC chief posted on X, formerly Twitter, a ready reference for students before enrolling in these online learning modes. He said that students should ensure the approval/recognition status of the higher educational institution (HEIs) and programme.

Students were asked to check on the HEIs website that they are recognised and entitled to offer ODL and online programmes. All HEIs must upload their application details (submitted to UGC), including affidavits, statutory body approval, and regulatory authority approval, he said.

He also said the students should check that the HEIs are not debarred or put under the 'no admission category.'

UGC has debarred three colleges and universities from offering ODL courses for the February 2024 academic session. They are Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Maharashtra, Sri Venkateswara University, Andhra Pradesh, and Periyar University, Tamil Nadu.

Students should also ensure that the programme's nomenclature, duration, and entry qualification adhere to UGC notification on the specification of degrees, 2014, and its subsequent amendments.

Aspirants were also cautioned to ensure that the discipline is not under the prohibited programmes under ODL/Online mode. UGC has prohibited some courses, which include engineering, medical, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and other para-medical disciplines. Apart from the 17 programmes, UGC has also said that M.Phil and Ph.D. programmes in all disciplines through open and distance learning and online modes are also prohibited.

He also asked students to ensure that all activities of the HEIs, including admission, counselling, contact programmes and examinations, are conducted by the HEIs strictly within the territorial jurisdiction of the HEIs for ODL programmes.

Students were also asked to ensure that the course or programme is not offered under franchising mode.

"Degrees recognised by the Distance Education Bureau of UGC at undergraduate, Postgraduate, and PG diploma levels are equivalent to those offered in conventional mode," the UGC chief said.

3 colleges debarred

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4L students took CUET-PG exams across 253 cities

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

OVER 4 lakh students took the Common University Entrance Test (CUET PG) 2024 exams in 565 centres, including nine outside India, the University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said Friday.

"CUET (PG) concluded successfully on March 28 as planned. CUET-PG allows students to apply for multiple central and other universities using one test," he said.

For the 2024-25 academic year CUET-PG had around 4,62,603 candidates and 768,414 tests. As many as 190 universities participated. In 2023, 4,59,083 students participated in CUET-PG. The National Testing Agency conducted the CUET-PG exam on March 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, and 28.

It was conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode in 565 different centres located in 253 cities. Exams were also conducted in Manama, Dubai, Muscat, Riyadh, Ottawa, Abu Dhabi, Vienna, and Qatar.

Plans afoot to add indigenous towed artillery guns Dhanush along LAC

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

TO add more artillery firepower along the northern borders, the Indian Army is proceeding to issue Request for Proposal (RFP) for the towed gun systems. Meanwhile, the guns for the second regiment of the indigenously manufactured Dhanush artillery guns are in the induction phase.

Sources in the defence establishment said the RFP for the towed gun system will be issued anytime with all the supporting work completed.

In an important move towards inducting indigenous weapon systems, the procurement of 155mm/52 caliber Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), along with high mobility & gun towing vehicles for the Indian Army were approved last year.

The guns are developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization along with private players Tata Advanced Systems and Bharat Forge Ltd. These have been tested in high altitude with 307 of them expected to be inducted, with each being estimated to cost around ₹18 crore.

Tensions along the Line of Actual Control between India and China have persisted since 2020 with major deployment along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.

The Dhanush is the country's first indigenously built artillery gun to be inducted. The initial plan is to induct 114 guns with 80% indigenous content by 2026. One regiment of Dhanush will be inducted along the Line of Actual Control. Its indigenous content makes its maintenance easier in terms of spare parts' availability.

The cost of each gun, which also has electronic sites, is about Rs 14 crore, much lower than the per unit cost of Bofors. Dhanush can travel through difficult terrains and target enemy targets both day and night. The Army has inducted 100 155mm/52 calibre K9 Vajra-T guns for which a $720 million contract was signed in 2017. These guns also, with upgrades, have been deployed along the LAC in Ladakh. The plans of the Army include inducting 100 more K9 Vajra-T guns.

The Army aims to standardize its bulk of the guns to 155mm/ 52 calibre, said defence sources. The Regiment of Artillery is said to be the second largest arm of the Indian Army, after the infantry. Artillery with its missiles, guns, mortars, rocket launchers and unmanned aerial vehicles is also described as an 'Arm of Decision'.

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	36	24	Mumbai	34	27
Bhopal	36	24	Panaji	33	27
Jaipur	36	22	Patna	36	26
Amritsar	30	17	Lucknow	36	22
Chennai	32	27	Port Blair	31	27
Kolkata	35	27	Imphal	26	18
Srinagar	12	06	Chandigarh	32	19

Can 'Fort' Gadkari be breached?

NAGPUR: Anti-incumbency, strong Cong nominee may pose challenge to Union minister

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

UNION minister Nitin Gadkari, the BJP's choice for the Nagpur Lok Sabha seat, is set to face a tough fight owing to several factors, including anti-incumbency and a strong Congress candidate Vikas Thakre as his rival.

Besides, this time, the Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi(VBA) has pledged its support to Congress candidates in the seat. Thakre, a local MLA, has been the party's city president for over 20 years. Nagpur, along with three other Lok Sabha constituencies, will go to the polls on April 19.

Gadkari, the BJP stalwart, won the 2014 Lok Sabha elections by 26.2%. vote margin. He bagged a 54% vote share against Congress's Vilas Muttemwar with 27.9%. However, in the 2019 general elections, Gadkari's winning margin reduced to 18.3%. Assemblywise, while Gadkari bagged 55.9% vote share, Congress's Nana Patole got 37.6%. The BJP veteran got a significant lead in five segments, while Patole got a marginal lead in the Nagpur North SC reserved seat.

A famous face in Nagpur, Gadkari has, in the past ten years, turned the Congress bastion into his home turf. Interestingly, he is more popular than the BJP as a party.

Despite belonging to a Brahmin community, his inclusive nature and liberal politics earned him loyalists from all castes. Besides, he also developed Nagpur city by increasing the connectivity by all modes of transport.

"Gadkari carries the all-season politician tag, but the sailing cannot be smooth owing to Thakre's strong presence.

Also, Gadkari carries ten years of anti-incumbency with him with the number of disgruntled people surging. Thakre has a strong network in the city that can be galvanised during the campaign," a political observer said.

Thakre belongs to Maratha's sub caste – Kunbi, which forms a significant chunk of voters who have over the time shifted to BJP. But Thakre can bring them back to Congress. The Dalits and Muslims also form a considerable number in the constituency. If they rally behind their candidate, Gadkari will face an uphill task despite having a visible edge in the Nagpur constituency," said another observer.

This time, Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi(VBA) has extended support to Congress candidates in the Nagpur Lok Sabha seat. "This will also have a major impact because VBA and Bahujan Party candidates will cut into the major Dalit votes, around 60,000 to 80,000. If Thakre succeeds in getting them on his side, the battle will become a close contest," said the political analyst.

On the other hand, Gadkari relies solely on a well-trained RSS network and his good image to counter Thakre's network and casts arithmetic. "Nagpur is a very prestigious seat for many reasons – the RSS headquarters – Reshim Baug is in this constituency. Speculations were rife that Gadkari would not be given a ticket as some leaders were unhappy with his liberal and progressive political and prime ministerial aspirations. If BJP meets most of the requisite numbers, then other alienated allies like Shiv Sena (UBT), Akali Dali, etc may join the party to form the government."

Chances of some invisible hands working against Gadkari in the coming elections cannot be ruled out," said a senior journalist from Nagpur.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH

Nagpur Lok sabha seat comprises six state assembly segments - Nagpur South West, Nagpur South, Nagpur East, Nagpur Central, Nagpur West and Nagpur North(SC). Out of the 6, 4 belong to BJP and 2 are from Congress

MEN 10,97,087

WOMEN 10,63,932

3RD GENDER 77

POLLING BOOTHS 2,037

NO. OF VOTERS 21,61,096

NEW VOTERS 1,50,000

NAGPUR LAST WINNERS

- NITIN GADKARI (BJP): **2019**
- NITIN GADKARI (BJP): **2014**
- VILAS MUTTEMWAR (CONGRESS): **2009**
- VILAS MUTTEMWAR (CONGRESS): **2004**

ELECTION2024

Tribal outfits to keep off polls

In deeply fractious Nagaland, many tribal outfits in eastern parts have hardened their stance over staying away from any state and Central elections. They have demanded a 'Frontier Nagaland Territory.' All 20 members of Eastern Nagaland Legislators' Union (ENLU) and the state's lone Rajya Sabha member met the leaders of Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) and other tribal bodies. But the talks failed to break the ice. They said Centre failed to create a separate arrangement.

BJP releases campaign song

To add some byte to the shrill campaign, the Bihar BJP has launched a party campaign song, 'Modi Sang Bihar' for the Lok Sabha polls. The 'Bihar with Modi' song highlights the developmental works of the BJP-led government and stresses the significance of the works already done by the party. It also talks about the "guarantees" given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the people of the state, party leaders said. The song was released by senior BJP leader Vinod Tawde.

Over 79K model code violations

The Election Commission has said its C-Vigil mobile application has become an effective tool in flagging poll code violations. Since the announcement of the elections, over 79,000 complaints have already been received. More than 99% of the complaints have been resolved and close to 89% of those were resolved within 100 minutes, the EC said. More than 58,500 complaints (73% of the complaints) received were against illegal hoardings and banners, the EC said.

AAP, Cong struggle to keep their flock together in 13-seat Punjab battleground

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE ruling AAP as well as opposition Congress are worried over "poaching" of their leaders by the BJP. The Congress is trying to find candidates who do not have a chequered past and AAP is hard-pressed to keep its flock together.

Sources said the Congress has tweaked the selection criteria. The state leadership is focusing on candidates who do not have any case linked to the vigilance or Enforcement Directorate (ED). This is meant to thwart the possibility of armtwisting them or preventing their vulnerability to poaching. Recently party MLA and Deputy Leader of Opposition Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal joined AAP as he had a vigilance case pending against him.

Sources in the party apprehend that the BJP can use the Central investigating agencies against its leaders, including former CM Charanjit Singh Channi, former ministers Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Sangat Singh Gilzian and Bharat Bhushan Ashu as vigilances cases are registered against them.

On the other hand, AAP has decided to hold meetings of all its MLAs with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann after the March 31 Delhi rally. Mann is expected to listen to the grievances of party lawmakers in their constituencies.

By conducting these meetings, the party aims to form a strategy for the Lok Sabha polls.

Every state legislator has been asked to get at least 1,000 supporters for the Delhi rally. The lawmakers fear that failure to do so could lead to their wings being clipped and a parallel leader being propped up in their segments.

Sources said the party leadership is expected to reach out to certain disgruntled MLAs, including those who were made to quit ministerial berths and others who aspire to become ministers and frequently criticize the government.

The fire-fighting in the party became apparent after Jalandhar MP Sushil Kumar Rinku and Jalandhar (West) MLA Sheetal Angura joined the saffron camp.

Sources said more than 20 AAP MLAs had been allegedly contacted by the BJP, besides three legislators Jagdeep Goldy Kamboj, Rajinder Pal Kaur and Amandeep Singh Musafir who claimed that they were offered money to switch sides.

The Congress was jolted in May 2022, when its ex-state president Sunil Jakhar joined the BJP. He is now the Punjab BJP chief.

ASSAM

'Mekhela chador', 'Pink' campaign take Nalbari centre stage

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

NALBARI district in Assam, where the majority of government officers are female but there exists a disproportionate male-female voting ratio, has initiated a "pink" campaign to encourage women to engage in the electoral process.

Nalbari, located in lower Assam, boasts a female IAS officer, Varnali Deka, serving as district magistrate and district election officer (DEO). Another female officer, Supriya Das, holds the position of superintendent of police.

Furthermore, key administrative roles such as deputy DEO, finance & accounts officer, treasury officer, district information and public relations officer, and district social welfare officer, among others, are occupied by women. Additionally, a significant number of assistant district magistrates (ADMs), circle officers, and block development officers are also women.

In an effort to highlight this gender representation, the district administration is encouraging women voters to actively participate in the voting process. Recently, a hands-on training session was conducted for approximately 300 female polling personnel in the district. Following the training, all women polling personnel, officials, and officers gathered in front of the DEO's office, adorned in traditional Assamese attire – "mekhela chador" – in various shades of pink.

They displayed pink placards bearing messages from the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative, urging women to exercise their right and responsibility to vote. In the forthcoming elections, 50% of the urban polling stations in Nalbari will be staffed by women polling teams. The district is scheduled to vote in the third phase on May 7th.

Cong bats for women reservation in govt jobs, says powerful women will change India

The Congress will reserve 50 per cent of government jobs for women if it is voted to power, former party chief Rahul Gandhi said on Friday, asserting that powerful women will change the destiny of India. Gandhi asked why even today only one in three women is employed and why is there only one woman in 10 government jobs. "Isn't the population of women in India 50%? Is the presence of women in higher secondary and higher education not 50%? If so, then why is their share in the system so less?" the former Congress chief said."Congress wants - 'Aadhi Abaadi Poora Haq', we understand that women's potential will be fully utilized only when women have equal contribution in the government running the country," he said in a post in Hindi on X. Therefore, the Congress has decided that half the recruitment in all new government jobs should be reserved for women, he said.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

High number, yet women fail to make a cut in nomination

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

ALTHOUGH the women electorate comprises 48.9% of the total electorate for five Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir, the major political parties have so far shown reluctance in fielding women candidates from any of the five seats.

A total of 87,89,233 voters are eligible to vote for five Lok Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir. Of them, 44,86,261 are male voters while 43,02,812 are women electorates besides 160 transgenders.

The Congress and BJP have so far announced candidates for Udhampur and Jammu seats. BJP has retained sitting MPs Jugal Kishore from Jammu seat and Union MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh from Udhampur seat. Congress has fielded Lal Singh from Udhampur seat and Raman Bhalla from Jammu seat.

The NC and PDP, which are part of the INDIA alliance, have decided to extend support to Congress candidates from both the seats.

The DPAP of Ghulam Nabi Azad has fielded Ghulam Nabi Saroori from Udhampur seat and is likely to give mandate to ex Congress leader Jugal Kishore from Jammu seat.

As far as three Valley seats are considered, NC is insisting on contesting all the three seats and not leaving any seat to its INDIA alliance or Gupkar Alliance ally, PDP. The NC, which had won three Valley seats in 2019 polls, is unlikely to field any woman candidate from any of the three seats, sources in the party said. NC vice president Omar Abdullah has said the party has finalised the candidates and would announce their names after Eid-ul-Fitr.

BJP is considering fielding its J&K president Ravindra Raina from Rajouri-Poonch. It remains to be seen if BJP will field woman candidate from Srinagar or Baramulla seat.

Rebellion rears ugly head in Rajkot as Rupala's Rajput remarks trigger row

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

THE remarks by Union minister and BJP's Rajkot candidate Purushottam Rupala on Rajput community have triggered a controversy. Rajput organisations called a meeting in Ahmedabad on Thursday and demanded that Rupala be changed as the BJP candidate.

They threatened to stage protests across Gujarat and vote against the BJP in Lok Sabha polls if their demand is not met.

"I appeal to people of the community not to make a co promise. The compromise in this issue will be made on a single point: Rupala Bhai's ticket should be cancelled," said Padmani Ba Vala, president of the women's front of Gujarat Karni Sena, in an audio message.

Rajput Community protests against Purusottam Rupala in Rajkot | EXPRESS

The Rajkot row was the latest to rile the BJP when the party is grappling with dissent in Vadodara, Sabarkantha, Surendranagar and Valsad seats.

Aditya Singh Gohil, a Rajput leader from the Congress, filed a suit in Rajkot court against Rupala. "Purushottam Rupala's statement against the Kshatriya community is not acceptable, so I filed a complaint in the court," said Gohil. "The court has asked me to appear on April 15 along with witnesses."

Addressing a gathering in Rajkot on March 22, Rupala said, among other things, that former maharajas had yielded to the oppression of foreign rulers, including the British.

Cong's Kota cauldron gets murky as leaders fight it out in public meeting

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

IN a startling turn of events for the Congress party in Rajasthan, a public meeting in Kota meant to galvanize party workers for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections witnessed a clash between two senior leaders, shedding light on internal rifts within the party.

The incident unfolded on Friday as a confrontation between Prahlad Gunjal, a recent entrant to the Congress and a supporter of Vasundhara Raje, who is now the Congress candidate for the Kota Lok Sabha seat, and Shanti Dhariwal, a longstanding stalwart of the Congress in the area.

Gunjal has been made the Congress candidate from Kota much against the wishes of Dhariwal, the PWD minister in the previous Gehlot government, who has been the Kota stalwart of the Congress for many decades.

Prahlad Gunjal with Shanti Dhariwal when the public meeting began | EXPRESS

The confrontation arose during the meeting, initially sparked by Gunjal's verbal onslaught against Lok Sabha Speaker and BJP candidate, Om Birla. Subsequently, when it was Dhariwal's turn to address the gathering, he demanded an apology from Gunjal for purportedly leveling baseless accusations against him during his years with the BJP. Dhariwal emphasized the ethos of the Congress party, insisting, 'Divisions based on religion hold no place here.'

Gunjal asserted, "During my time with BJP, I followed the secular principles."

5,000 police are needed in Haiti to help tackle 'catastrophic' gang violence

Aid deliveries to Gaza's 2.3 million people have been impeded by Israeli military restrictions and ongoing hostilites, according to UN

UN COURT SAYS ISRAEL MUST OPEN MORE LAND CROSSINGS

Members of the US Air Force load containers of humanitarian aid into an airplane at Al-Udeid Air Base, Qatar, on Friday, prior to dropping them over the Gaza Strip | AP

THE HAGUE

IN a legally binding order, the top United Nations court says Israel must open more land crossings into Gaza for food, water, fuel and other supplies.

The International Court of Justice issued two new so-called provisional measures Thursday in a case brought by South Africa accusing Israel of acts of genocide in its war in Gaza — charges Israel strongly denies.

The U.N. has reported that 100% of Gaza's 2.3 million people are at severe levels of food insecurity.

Aid deliveries have been impeded by Israeli military restrictions, ongoing hostilities and the breakdown of public order, according to the U.N. and international aid groups.

And in the West Bank, Israeli authorities say an attacker wounded three people Thursday after opening fire at several vehicles on a main route in the territory. The military says it's still searching for the shooter.

Tensions in the West Bank have surged since the start of the war in Gaza, which has killed more than 32,000 people and wounded 74,000, according to the Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its tally, but says women and children make up two-thirds of the dead.

Some 1,200 people were killed in Israel and another 250 people abducted when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel, triggering the war in Gaza.

In a related development, an Israeli airstrike killed at least 12 people when it slammed into a residential building late Thursday in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, which is overflowing with displaced civilians, according to health officials.

Two children and four women were among the dead pulled from the rubble, said Dr. Saleh al-Hams, the head of the nursing department at the European Hospital.

Eight of the bodies, including two mangled and unidentifiable corpses, were transferred to the European Hospital. The rest of the remains were taken to Abu Yousef al-Najjar Hospital, according to hospital records. After almost six months of war, about a dozen of Gaza's 36 hospitals are only partially functioning.

AP

Syria says Israeli attack in Aleppo killed many

BEIRUT

THE Syrian army says Israeli airstrikes early Friday near the northern city of Aleppo have killed and wounded several people and caused material damage.

Syrian state media quoted an unnamed military official as saying that the Israeli strikes coincided with drone attacks by Syrian insurgent groups on civilians targets in Aleppo and its suburbs. It did not give an exact numbers for the casualties.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said Israeli strikes hit missile depots for Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group in Aleppo's southern suburb of Jibreen near the Aleppo International Airport. It added that dozens of soldiers were killed or wounded in the strikes.

The Observatory said explosions were still heard two hours after the strikes.

There was no immediate statement from Israeli officials on the strikes. Israel frequently launches strikes on Iran-linked targets in Syria but rarely acknowledges them.

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 173

GAZA TOLL SO FAR
32,623

- Gaza starvation could amount to war crime, UN human rights chief tells BBC. A UN-backed report offered hard statistical evidence that the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza is turning into a man-made famine
- Israel says UN resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire damaged Gaza ceasefire talks

An investigator searching for bodies of victims who died in the bus that plunged off a bridge in South Africa on Friday killing all except one | AP

45 DEAD IN SOUTH AFRICA BUS ACCIDENT

MMAMATLAKALA (SA)

Forensic investigators in South Africa were searching on Friday for the bodies of victims after a bus carrying pilgrims to an Easter gathering plunged off a bridge and caught fire. An 8-year-old child was the only survivor of the crash that killed at least 45.

Hours after the Thursday afternoon crash, smoke seeped from the mangled, burned wreck underneath the concrete bridge. Authorities said it appeared that the driver lost control and the bus ploughed into the barriers along the side of the bridge and then over the edge. The driver was also the dead. The crash happened in a mountainous region near the town of Mokopane, which is about 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of the South African capital, Pretoria.

The Limpopo provincial government said the bus, which was carrying pilgrims from Botswana, veered off the Mmamatlakala bridge and plunged 50 metres (164 feet) into a ravine.

It said many bodies were burned beyond recognition and trapped inside the vehicle, while other victims had been thrown from the bus.

"We were at the scene," said local resident Simone Mayema, who said he was one of the first to arrive. "We tried to help (but) there was nothing we could do because there was flames." The investigators worked through the wreckage early Friday, but while some bodies had been recovered, others were believed to be still inside what was left of the charred bus, which was almost crushed flat. There was no new information on the status of the child who somehow survived the horrific crash.

Officials at the hospital where the child was taken declined to give an update. Government officials were expected to hold a press conference later Friday. *AP*

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are. Informed that my client **Sujatha .R** w/o Udayakumar, Residents at No.J 51,first cross,Anjaneya Block,Opp Mahila Vidhyala School,pipeline, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore_560094. Hereby informed that,the original Registered Gift deed dated 7/3/2008,bearing documents No.HBB-1-02396-2007-2008 recorded in CD No.HBBD-7 and Deed of Rectification dated 7-8-2009,No. HBB-1-00721/2009-10, recorded in CD No.HBBD16,Registered in the office of the SRO Hebbal, which have been lost/misplaced while shifting the house in Shedhadripuram. My client has lodged a police complaint No.0993861/2024 U/s pipeline on 28/3/24. Any person/s in possession of the afore said documents may return the same to me or document may sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objection in wring **within 7 days** from this day to the undersigned

S. R RAVIKUMAR. Advocate
No.37, Gayathri Nilaya,, Kogilu, Krishnanagar, Bangalore-560064
Date: 30/3/24, **place:** Bangalore

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ECN-TRD-02-2024
Dated: 25.03.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 kV, 50 Hz, Single Phase, AC Electrification including OHE & TSS of 2nd line of Bagalkot-Wandal section along with left over works required for commissioning of Bagalkot-Wandal section (COMPOSITE TENDER)	Rs. 20,30,47,231.90/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 19.04.2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/TRD Construction / Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/779/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My clients **Sri.Srikanth L.Dandin S/o Lakshmaiah** to bring the notice of the general public that the original absolute Rectification deed bearing doc No.NMG-1-03119/2021-22 of Book-1, Stored in CD No.NMGD1097, Date.13.07.2021 registered in the office of the sub-registrar Nelamangala, executed by Sri.Rangahanumaiah and others in favour of Smt.W.M.Jamuna is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing **Site No.40/A,** Khanesumari Janjaru No.288/40/A, formed in converted Sy.No.27, (vide converted order No.BDS.ALN.S.R (N) 108/91-92 issued by Deputy Commissioner Bangalore Rural District), situated at **Arishinakunte Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk,** now comes under the Limits of Nelamangala CMC Parimalanagara, measuring East to west 25 Feet and North to south 50 feet, total measuring **1250 Sq.ft.,** and bounded by:

East by : Site No.41,
West by : Site No.40,
North by : Road,
South by : Other Land.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2023-24/20
Dated: 25.03.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Appx. Value
[I] Provision of Automatic signalling between KSR Bengaluru-Yasvantpur-Yelahanka section [ii] Provision of Auxiliary Transformer for interlocking of LC's over Bengaluru division [iii] Provision of ATs at LC gates LC No. 119(Bangarpet-Tyakal) and 7(Oorgaum-Champion) [iv] OHE modification works due to platform extension at Nayandahalli station towards Mysuru end.	Rs. 1,15,36,696.65/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 15:00 hrs. of 15.04.2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Bengaluru

PUB/778/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -I FOR KARNATAKA

FORTH FLOOR, B.S.N.L BUILDING, TELEPHONE HOUSE,RAJ BHAVAN ROAD BENGALURU -560001

O.A.No.1287/2019

BETWEEN:
State Bank of India ...APPLICANT
AND:
Sri V. Vijay Kumar and another ...DEFENDANTS

Summons issued under Rule 23(viii) of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure), Rules, 1993 to the defendant

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against you for the recovery of sum **Rs. 57,56,403/- (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Four Hundred Three Only)** as on **10/10/2019** together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on the **03/07/2024 at 10:30 A.M** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **22nd day of Feb, 2024**

Signature of the Registrar (DRT I) Authorized to Issue Summons

The Defendants
1. Sri N D Ravi, (Defendant No.2)
S/o. Sri Doraiswamy Raju, No.2, Deva sandra, Off BEL Road, Bangalore-560 056.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to General Public that my client Smt. S. Padmavathi presently residing at Bangalore has lost the 3rd and 4th page of original Sale deed executed by Sri. H. N. Lokanath, in her favour, registered as document no. LAG-1-00648-2013-2014, Book I, Stored in CD no. LAGD215,on 29/05/2013, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Laggere with respect to selling the Northern Portion of Site no. 48, formed out of Sy. no. 115, Re-Sy. no. 115/2, measuring (30X20) feet, in all measuring 600 Sq.,ft., which is morefully described as schedule property mentioned below and the same is not traceable. If found inform to Smt. B. Mallika, Advocate, whose address is mentioned as below, within eight days from the date of publication.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Northern Portion of residential immovable property bearing Site no. 48, formed out of Assessment no. 115 and Re-Assessment no. 115/2, previously under the limits of City Municipal Council, Dasarahalli, Ward no. 24 and presently comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward no70 bearing Khatha no. 335, Situated at LAGGERE VILLAGE, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, site measuring East to West : 30-00 feet and North to South : 20-00 feet, in all measuring 600 Sq., ft., together with the residential building consisting of ground floor, measuring 05 Squares, first floor measuring 06 Squares and second floor measuring 02Squares, totally measuring 13 Squares, with RCC roof, with all civic amenities and bounded on: Boundaries:

East by : Site no. 35;
West by : Road;
North by : Site no. 49/C;
South by : Southern Portion of Site no. 48.

MALLIKA.B Advocate
No. 203, 2nd Floor,
Saraswathipuram Main Road,
Nandinilayout, Bangalore- 560 096.
Ph: 9845595954 / 9742658187

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the immovable Property morefully described in the Schedule hereunder from its Owners **1) SMT. VIJAYALAKSHMI R** Aged about 42 years, Wife of P Ramesh **2) SRI. R. ROHITH R, (earlier known as R. SHARAVANA)** Aged about 24 years, Son of P Ramesh both are Residing at No. 54/1, 4th Cross, E Main, Muneshwara Block, Palace Guttahalli Bengaluru– 560 003.

All persons having any right, title, claim or interest in respect of the Schedule Property by way of sale, exchange, let, lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, gift, lien, charge, maintenance, easement, trust, possession or otherwise of whatsoever nature, are hereby required to make the same known in writing, along with copies of documents in support of such claim and produce the same to the undersigned within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the event, no such claim is received, my client shall proceed with the transaction with Owners as if no such claims exist or that they have been waived or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property comprising of land and house building bearing Municipal No.4 (Old Site No.161) and PID No. 6-79-4 situated at E Main Road, Muneshwara Block, within Ward No.6, Dathatreya Temple Bengaluru with built up area of 750 Sq. ft and land measuring 375 Sq.ft which is bounded as follows:

East by : Property bearing No.160;
West by : Road,
North by : Private Property;
South by : Property bearing No.170

Sd/- **Vaishali Basawanal,** Advocate
VSB Law Associates
312, III Level Prestige Meridian II,
29, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -I FOR KARNATAKA

FORTH FLOOR, B.S.N.L BUILDING, TELEPHONE HOUSE,RAJ BHAVAN ROAD BENGALURU -560001

O. A. NO.407/2021

BETWEEN:
State Bank of India ...APPLICANT
AND:
Dr.Madhusudan H.P. and Another ...DEFENDANTS

Summons issued under Rule 23(viii) of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure), Rules, 1993 to the defendant

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against you for the recovery of sum **Rs.56,48,925/- (Rupees Fifty Six Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty Five Only)** as on 22/01/2021 together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on the **5/8/2024 at 10:30 A.M** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **29 day of Feb, 2024**

Signature of the Registrar (DRT I) Authorized to Issue Summons

The Defendants
1. Dr.Madhusudan H.P, (D1)
S/o Mr Hanuma Reddy, No.560,1st Main, Next to PES College, Nagendra Block, Banashankari, Bangalore - 560 050.
2. M/s. Parkway Homes LLP (D2)
No.10, 5A Block, 17th Main Road, Koramanagala, Bangalore - 560 095.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST TITLE DOCUMENTS

My client Smt. Pandi Bhagya Lakshmi, W/o late. Pandi Sanyasi Vara Prasad, Aged 36 years, Residing at No. 13/1, 1st Main Road, KR Garden, Jeevanahalli, Coxtown, Bangalore 560005. Being my client, owner of the schedule property, the schedule property was purchased by our family members. Smt. N.I. Surya khantha and Shri. P. Sanjeeva Rao through a registered Sale Deed, Document No. **SHV-1-04791-2005-06,** CD No. **SHVD57,** Dated **25.01.2006,** in the office of the **Subregistrar, Shivajinagar,** Bangalore.

THAT MY CLIENT HAS LOST **ORIGINAL SALE DEED**

Document No. **SHV-1-04791-2005-06,** CD No. **SHVD57,** Dated **25.01.2006,** in the office of **the Subregistrar, Shivaji nagar,** Bangalore.

Sale Deed Document No. 2267/71-72 in Page No. 245-247, VOL.1664 BK.I Dated 30-09-1971.

Sale Deed Document No.88/74-75 in Page No. 44-47,Vol.1797,BK.I dated 08-04-1974.

It is requested the finder of the lost original sale deeds stated above to deliver the same to the undersigned or to my client against suitable reward. Further it is also to caustion the general public for not dealing with the schedule property on the basis of these lost original sale deeds.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Site No. 164, Corporation No.13/1 (Eastern Portion), 1st Main Road, KR Garden, Jeevanahalli, Coxtown, Bangalore 560005.

BOUNDED ON:- the East by : Private Property, West by : Vendors Property, North by : Road and South by : Road.

DHARMENDER LAKSHMANSWAMY,
Advocate
#43-C, 2nd Floor, Wheelers Road, Coxtown, Bangalore 560005. Mob-9880595755
E Mail Id : legal1993@yahoo.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public that my client, **Smt. Susheela Bai, W/o Manohar Lal,** No.371, 1st Stage, Gokula, Yeshwanthapura, Bengaluru-560022 has lost the original Sale Deed dated 22-09-1962 executed by Sri.Munishamappa in favor of Sri.Munibasappa, registered as a document No.6874/1962-63, Book-1, Volume No.2098, pages No.222, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru. The above said document was lost or misplaced while traveling through auto from Majestic to Yeshwanthapura on 04-03-2024.The same has not been traced despite the best efforts and the police complaint has lodged on 28-03-2024 for the loss of the document.

Hence, this is to inform the general public that, if any person or persons were come into the possession the above said sale deed the same may kindly be forwarded to the undersigned advocate whose name and address is mentioned below, the finder will be suitably rewarded by the owner of the property.

Pradeep B.V., Advocate
No. 114 & 115, 'Bindu Galaxy', #2,
1st Main Road, Rajajinagara Industrial Town,
Bengaluru-560044. Mobile:-94817-78692.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my **1) Smt.N.POONGODI,** W/o K.Murthy **and 2) Sri.K.MURTHY** S/o Late Sri. G. Kuppuswamy, Both Nos.1 and 2 are residing at No.39, 13th Main, RIECS Layout, J.C.Nagar, Kurubarahalli, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru-560 086 have **lost the original sale deed dated 01-02-2023 registered as No.8213/2023 CD No.RJND1353 registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Rajajinagar Bangalore in respect of site now bearing No.11 (Eleven), Old Assessment No.33, New Assessment No.33/2, Katha No.102, situated at Andrahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Ward No.40 Measuring East to West 28 ft North to South 42 ft or 1,176 sq ft for which my client filed a police complaint/E-Lost Report through online bearing lost report No.0980156/ 2024 date of document lost 11/03/2024 date of Report 18-03-2024, In this regard if any person finds the above mentioned original documents, please return/ handover the same to the undersigned or to the nearest police station, further if any person/s having any type of claim, right or interest in this regard or over the aforesaid property may kindly contact and lodge the same with documentary proof to the undersigned within Seven Days of this publication failing which my client will treat the certified copies of the aforesaid documents as original.**

MOHAN KUMAR. N. B.A. L.L.B.,
Advocate and Legal Consultant
No.8, 6th Cross, 1st Main, S.R.Nagar,
BANGALORE-560 027,
Mob No.98443 51849.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice regarding Lost of Sale Deed:I,Rangaswamaiah S/o Ningappa Gaddadaiah would like to inform the general public that the Sale Deed bearing Document No.1752/1959-60 dated 14/02/1960, has been lost. If any person who finds it, please requested to return the same to below mentioned address at:

Rangaswamaiah
No. 25, 6th Main, Kamakshipalya Station Road, Meenakshi Nagara, Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru.
Mobile No: 98440 97257

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Construction Organization, Ernakulam Jn

1.TENDER NOTICE No:07-CE-CN-ERS-2024-OT Dated 12/03/2024
Name of work: Earth work etc at Kumbalam yard
Tender Value: Rs. 3021.30 Lakhs
Bid Security: Rs. 1660700/-
Completion Period: 18 Months
Date and time-of tender closing : 08/04/2024.

2.TENDER NOTICE No: 08-CE-CN-ERS-2024-OT Dated 13/03/2024
Name of work: Earth work, extension of minor bridges, platforms, FOB, protective works between PASA & & NYY stations
Tender Value: Rs.5750.59 Lakhs
Bid Security: Rs. 3025300/-
Completion Period: 24 Months.
Date and time of tender closing: 08/04/2024.

Complete details and tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/Construction Ernakulam Jn

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560001

(Notice of Demand to Defendants)

(See Rule 2 of the Second Sehedule of Income Tax Act, 1961 and Section 25 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks Under Financial Institution Act, 1993)

DCP No.4603 OA No. 202/2006

To
1) Sri Dinesh Upadhya S/o P.V. Upadhya, R/a No.P-13, Sector 13, Road F-6, Jeevanbhimanagar, Bangalore- 560 075.
2) Sri P. Chakrapani S/o Sri Prahlad Rao, Development Officer, LIC of India, Peenya Branch, R/a No.115, 'Eishwarya' 8th Cross, 3rd Main, I Block, B.E.L. Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore- 560 097.
3) Sri P. Mohan S/o Sri T. Papaiah Reddy, R/a No.265/3, 6th Cross, Kaggadasapura, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bangalore- 560 093.
4) M/s. Uma Builders, No.C-103, 1st Floor, Aishwarya Lake View Residency, Kaggadasapura, 6th Cross, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bangalore- 560 093.
Represented by its Proprietrix : Smt Uma Rao W/o Mallari Rao

- Defendants / Certified Debtors

Please take notice that Certificate **Dated 1.3.2007** has been forwarded by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore in **OA No. 202/2006.**

BETWEEN:
Syndicate Bank, Indiranagar Branch: Bangalore **.... APPLICANT**
AND
Sri Dinesh Upadhya & Others ... DEFENDANTS

for the recovery of an amount of **Rs. 16,18,817/-** details of which are as follows.
1. You are hereby required to pay the amount aforesaid within 15 days from the date of service of this notice by Demand Draft in favour of the undersigned.
2. You are informed that in case of default steps would be taken to realise the amount by one or more of the following modes namely: -
(a) Attachment and sale of the movable of immovable properties of defendants
(b) Arrest of the defendant and detention in prison. **(c)** By appointing a receiver for the management of the movable or immovable properties of Defendants.
3. In addition to the amound aforesaid you will also be liable for:
(a) Such interest as in payable as per decree, and **(b)** All costs incurred to realize the debt.

DETAILS OF AMOUNT MENTIONED IN THE RECOVERY CERTIFICATE:

Si. No.	ITEM	AMOUNT (in Rupees)
1.	Amount Determined	14,52,851
2.	Interest @ 10.50% p.a. from 9.5.2006 to 1.3.2007	1,23,711
3.	Application fee	17,005
4.	Advocate's fees	25,250
	TOTAL :	16,18,817

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **24/7/09.**

Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore-560001

NB: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

IN DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II FOR KARNATAKA

B.S.N.L. BUILDING, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU - 560 001

O. A. No.1196/2020

Between;
State Bank of India ....Applicant
And;
Sri. Roysten Adarsh Serrao and Others ...Defendants

Summons issued under Rule 23 (viii) of The Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993 to the defendant

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of The Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for the recovery of sum **Rs.40,20,076/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs Twenty Thousand Seventy Six only)** as **on 29/07/2023** together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on the **08/05/2024 at 10.30 A.M.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **28th day of January, 2024.**

Signature of the Registrar (DRT II) Authorized to Issue Summons

The Defendants
1. Sri Roysten Adarsh Serrao, (Defendant No.1) S/o. Mr. Wilfred Serrao, No.45, 5th Cross, Ashwathkatte Road, Kurubarahalli, Bangalore-560086.
2. Mr. Srikanth C., (Defendant No.2) S/o. Mr. P.Chikkanna, Proprietor of M/s. Srikantha Dwellings, No.15/1, F-3, Krishneel Nest, Gopal Reddy Layout, Doddabanaswadi, Bangalore-560043.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public my Client **Smt. Yamuna.R. W/o Late Raja.R.** aged about 31 years, presently residing at No. 5, 1st Floor, Raghavappa Road, Jaibharath Nagar Near Orien East. Bangalore -560033. Originally residing at No.2/52, Pillayar Kovil Street, Naranamangalam, Villupuram Tamil Nadu 604201, Aadhar No. 413189555982 intends to purchase the Schedule Property from **Mr. V.M. SIRAJUDEEN,** aged about 63 years S/o Late.K.M.Yusuff Aadhar No. 338598110459, and **Mrs S.MAMTAZ,** aged about 56 years, W/o V.M. Sirajudeen, Aadhar No. 737431926234. both are residing at No. 45, Hanumanthappa Road, Ramaswamy Palya, Bangalore-560 033.

Any person having any objection regarding the said sale transaction may contact the undersigned advocate with relevant documents within 15 days from the date of this publication failing which it shall be deemed that there is no objection of any nature and my client will complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Southern side of Gramatana Khaneshumari bearing No. 46, Khatha No. 509, Situated at Bytaguttapalya@ Ramaswamyplaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Municipal No. 47, PID No.87-393-47, present ward 28, 11-E khatha No. 1671836, Ramaswamy Palya Gramatana, Bangalore., Measuring East to West(Northern side) 39.6 feet, Southern side 38 feet, and North to South 25 feet totally 970 Sq. ft.,(90.116310 Sq. mtr)8, Consisting of 80.8256 Squares mtrs building on ground floor. 80.8256 Squares mtrs building on first floor, 80.8256 Squares mtrs building on Second floor, 18.5806 Squares mtrs building on third floor built with bricks, RCC roofed house, Vitrified flooring, Windows and doors of jungle wood, with basic amenities, such as water, sanitary and electricity and bounded on east by private property, west by Road, North by remaining portion of same khaneshumari No 47, south by passage.

Sd/- **M.V.Narayanaswamy,** Advocate,
No.4/1, 2nd Cross, 7th Main,
PNS Layout, Subbanapalya New Exten,
Kalyananagar, Bangalore -560 033.
Ph.,9845846694,
E.Mail mvnaraynaswamy66@gmail.com

IN DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II FOR KARNATAKA

B.S.N.L. BUILDING, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU - 560 001

O. A. No.812/2019

Between;
State Bank of India ....Applicant
And;
Sri Dharmaraj P Khandare and another ...Defendants

Summons issued under Rule 23 (viii) of The Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993 to the defendant

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of The Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for the recovery of sum **Rs.39,21,457/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Twenty One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Seven only)** from the defendants with interest as **on 09/04/2019** together with current and future relief's.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on the **15/05/2024 at 10.30 A.M.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **19th day of November 2023.**

Signature of the Registrar (DRT 2) Authorized to Issue Summons

The Defendants
1. Sri Dharmaraj P Khandare, (D-1)
S/o. Mr. Parushuram, No.502, 1st Floor, 1st Cross, Thimmareddy Colony, Near SBI Bank, Bangalore-560075.
2. M/s. Pruthvi Builders and Developers, (D-2)
No.29/2, Second Floor, Senaipillai Complex, Hulimavu Gate, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560070.

IN THE COURT OF THE SPECIAL SUBORDINATE JUDGE (TO DEAL WITH MCOP CASES) OF ERODE

M.C.O.P.NO. 586 of 2022

Minor. Madhumathi,
D/o Natarasan @ Natarajan.
Old Door No.6/24, New Door No.24/3, A.D.Colony, Kudumiyam palayam. Attavanai Anumanpalli village, Modakkurichi Taluk, Erode District - 638 101. Minor rep by her father Natarasan @ Natarajan
- Petitioner

versus

P.Jagadish. S/o T.Prakash.
Door No.9. 2nd Cross. Near S.H.K.Chotry, Pattegarapalya. Srinivasa Nagar, Bangalore-560072. Karnataka State.
2nd Respondent

NOTICE TO THE 2nd RESPONDENT

The petitioner has filed an application under section 166 of Motor Vehicles Act claiming compensation for the injuries sustained in the accident in M.C.O.P. No. 586 of 2022 on the file of the court of the Special Subordinate Judge, Erode against the 2nd respondent. The said case stands posted to 17.04.2024 for the appearance of the 2nd respondent. The court has ordered notice to the 2nd respondent.

The 2nd respondent is hereby informed to appear before the Special Subordinate Judge. Erode either in person or through pleader on 17.04.2024 at 10.30 a.m. without fail and in case of non-appearance on the part of the 2nd respondent, the matter will be decided in exparte.

/By order of the court/

P.S.Dhamodaran, B.Com., B.L...
Advocate, 18, Dr.Radhakrishnan road. Teachers' colony, Erode - 638011. Erode District.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, AT BENGALURU

4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raja bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

In the matter of O.A. No. 555/2023

BETWEEN:
Bank of India, ...Applicant
Versus
M/s Kalairaj M ...Defendant

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23 (viii) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.68,13,880.77 (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty and Seventy Seven Paisa Only)** together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons or on **28.06.2024 at 11.00 AM** in person or by Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this **22nd day of March 2024.**

By order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I
Bengaluru

DEFENDANT:
Mr. Kalairaj M S/o Mozhappillai,
Aged about 37 years,
Resident at Flat No.202,
First Floor, VS Vaishnavi Heavens,
Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage,
Bangalore-560078 PAN No. AUDPK2056P

PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Piramal Capital & Housing Finance

Registered Office Address : Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramala Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070.
CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Web Side:- www.piramalfinance.com
Branch Address : Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) – 400 602.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of **Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL)** under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Nnotice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. HLSA00045399 of Bengaluru - Vasanth Nagar Branch) Krishnamurthy M (Borrower) Dhanalakshmi (Co Borrower 1)	01-03-2024 ₹ 3241872.56/- (₹ Thirty Two lakh Forty One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Two Only and Fifty Six Paise) NPA (04-02-2024)	Residential Vacantsite bearing no 27 Khata No 9712 Assessment No 552 Yeshwantpur Hobli Bangalore North Taluk Doddabidarakallu Village Bangalore, Karnataka - 560073
(LC No. 12700001994 of Bengaluru S V Koramangala Branch) Arindam Sengupta (Borrower) Jayita Sengupta (Co Borrower 1)	01-03-2024 ₹ 2140983/- (₹ Twenty One lakh Forty Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Three Only) NPA (09-02-2024)	Flat No:201, 2nd Floor 6th Main Divya Broad Way Apartment Hoyasala Nagar, Rtc Palya Bangalore Bengaluru Karnataka :- 560016

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 30-03-2024
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BUSINESS

Market Watch

MARKET			GOLD			SILVER			FOREX		
655.04	Sensex	73,651.35	₹1,420	24 carat (10 gm)	₹68,880	₹300	1 kg	₹77,800	Dollar		83.31
203.25	Nifty	22,326.90	₹1,300	22 carat (10 gm)	₹63,150	₹3	10 gm	₹778	Euro		89.95

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Use watermarks on AI content: PM

Modi says misuse of voice can deceive and misguide people, leading to widespread uproar

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

> It is crucial to acknowledge that deepfake content is AI-generated and mention its source. These measures are important in the early days. We need to establish dos and don'ts. We will need to think about it seriously — Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI advocated the use of watermarks on AI-generated content to curb misinformation and deepfake-related harms in society.

In a candid, free-wheeling chat with Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, the Prime Minister said misuse of his voice, for instance, can initially deceive and misguide people, leading to widespread uproar.

"It is crucial to acknowledge that deepfake content is AI-generated and mention its source. These measures are important in the early days. We need to establish dos and don'ts. We will need to think about it seriously," said the Prime Minister.

In India, there is a sudden rise in deepfake cases. For instance, in a video, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was seen promoting a gaming app for easy money-making. Tendulkar had to go to social media platform X to call out the video as 'fake' and ask platforms for swift action to stop the spread. Before this, there was a deep-fake video featuring actor Rashmika Mandanna on social media platforms. As the video went viral, many people, including Bollywood veteran Amitabh Bachchan, sought legal action against those responsible for the criminal act. As the general election in India is around the corner, there is a palpable fear of misusing AI. In terms of regulation, in January 2024, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) said it would amend the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, to include regulations for deepfakes and algorithmic bias on technology platforms. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the minister of state for information technology, said that the government had issued an advisory on deepfakes. If the intermediaries don't follow, it will put it through the IT Rules.

On his part, Bill Gates said these are early days in AI and that it brings along a few challenges that need to be addressed. "These are early days in AI. It will do things that you think are hard, and then it will fail to do something that you think is easy. It seems like AI is a huge opportunity, but there are a few challenges that come with it," he said.

Byju's EGM: Firm can now raise authorised share capital

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

WITH no objections raised on the resolutions, edtech firm Byju's can now increase its authorised share capital. Byju's on Friday conducted its extraordinary general meeting (EGM) with 20 investors representatives attending the 30-minute meeting and the board secured more than 50% of the votes to increase the share capital.

According to sources, queries regarding the postal ballot were asked and answered at the EGM. The results of the rights issue will be out only after April 6. Though sources from Byju's said none of the four dissenting investors including Peak XV Partners and General Atlantic joined the EGM, a source from the investors side said authorised representatives of all investors were there and that nobody boycotted the EGM.

Earlier before conducting the EGM, Byju Raveendran in an email to shareholders said the last two years were tough, but that "our comeback will be stronger than our setback."

"As you are aware, we closed the rights issue last month, which was a crucial step towards ensuring the sustainability and growth of our company in these challenging economic conditions,"

He added that in response to the postal ballot which was announced on March 7, the company had already got more than 50% votes to the increase in authorised share capital.

"I have always built Byju's with a spirit of equality and equity, and it has never been my intention to leave any investor behind, regardless of their shareholding size," he said.

Raveendran has also said that since some of its shareholders were unable to participate earlier in the rights issue, the board is considering making an offer of renounced shares to existing shareholders to ensure that there is no more dilution to their shareholding. The company had managed to raise $200 million in its rights issue but right now it is locked in a separate account.

"Despite the animosity shown by some of the investors in pursuing uncalled for legal actions, we continue to show good faith towards all our shareholders and would like all of you to be part of our turnaround story," he added in the letter.

ASIANOMICS

SRI LANKA

INFLATION DIPS TO LOWEST LEVEL SINCE CRISIS

Sri Lanka's inflation had slowed to 0.9% in March, the lowest year-on-year price increase since an unprecedented economic crisis, the statistics office said on Friday. The crisis-hit country had defaulted on its $46 billion foreign debt in April 2022 after a foreign exchange wipe-out left it unable to import food, fuel and other essentials. Inflation reading for this month, from the benchmark Colombo Consumer Price Index, is a huge drop from the peak of nearly 70% in September of that year. The central bank this week cut its benchmark lending rate from 10% to 9.5% – the first reduction in four months. Months of protests during the economic crisis led to the ouster of then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa when demonstrators stormed his residence. His successor Ranil Wickremesinghe has sharply raised taxes, cut energy subsidies and secured a $2.9 billion rescue package from the International Monetary Fund.

THAILAND

ECONOMY EXPANDS SLOWLY IN FEBRUARY

The economy of Thailand expanded slowly in February with growth in the service sector and an increase in tourist arrivals offsetting a decline in exports from the previous month, the Bank of Thailand (BOT) said on Friday. The country recorded a current account surplus of $2 billion in February, after a deficit of $0.2 billion in the previous month, the central bank said. There have been 8.73 million foreign tourist arrivals in Thailand this year up to March 24, up 44% year-on-year, tourism ministry data showed. The country is aiming for a record 40 million foreign visitors this year following the 28 million in 2023. The economy in March will be helped by tourism, but export recovery and industrial manufacturing will have to be closely monitored, Assistant Governor Chayawadee Chai-Anant told a briefing. The BOT is monitoring the global economic recovery, government spending and economic stimulus measures, she added. Southeast Asia's second-largest economy unexpectedly shrank 0.6% in the final quarter of 2023 from the third quarter.

JAPAN

FEBRUARY JOBLESS RATE RISES TO 2.6%

The unemployment rate in Japan increased to 2.6% in February from 2.4% in the previous month, marking the first increase in seven months as more people entered the job market amid higher living costs, the government said on Friday. The availability of job ratio declined 0.01 point from January to 1.26, that means there were 126 jobs available for every 100 job seekers. It was the first fall in three months. The increase in the number of job seekers was greater than that of job openings, possibly due to a rise in the number of elderly people trying to earn an income to supplement their pensions due to high living costs. The total number of people with jobs in February rose 0.3 percent from a month earlier to a seasonally adjusted 67.83 million, while those who were unemployed climbed 7.1 percent to 1.82 million, with 490,000 people newly seeking jobs, up 30,000 from the previous year, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. Of the unemployed, 770,000 people left their jobs voluntarily, up 2.7% from January.

Don't answer calls from foreign numbers: DoT

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

AS the number of fraudulent calls in grows, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Friday issued an advisory warning people not to answer WhatsApp calls or share any personal details from foreign numbers with initials +92-xxxxxxxxxx.

They clarified that DoT does not authorise anyone to make calls on its behalf and advised people to remain vigilant. There has been a recent surge in calls from fraudsters posing as DoT officials. These imposters threaten people with the disconnection of their mobile numbers, claiming they are being misused in illegal activities. "Calls are being received by the citizens wherein callers, in the name of DoT, are threatening that all of their mobile numbers would be disconnected or their mobile numbers are being misused in some illegal activities," said DoT.

The government has been proactive to stop the menace of fraud calls in the country, and recently launched a portal called Chakshu. People can report about fraudulent calls, SMS messages, and WhatsApp messages received within the last 30 days on this platform. The DoT also launched a Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) that will provide a single platform to share data about suspected fraudulent connections. While launching the platforms, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the portal (www.sancharsaathi.gov.in) prevented frauds worth an estimated ₹1,008 crore.

The DoT warned about WhatsApp calls from foreign origin mobile numbers (like +92-xxxxxxxxxx) where impersonators attempt to deceive people. It added that cybercriminals use these calls to threaten and steal personal information for cybercrime and financial fraud. They advise people not to share any information when receiving such calls and to report them through the portal.

E-MARKETPLACE

Procurement on GeM doubles to ₹4L cr in FY24

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

THE procurement of goods and services through Government-e-Marketplace (GeM) platform has doubled in the current 2023-24 financial year till March 28, 2024 as against last fiscal by crossing ₹4 lakh crore in gross merchandise value (GMV).

The portal was started in 2016 for transparent procurement of goods and services for the government departments and various ministries from small-scale sellers such as women self-help groups, start-ups and MSMEs. In 2016, merchandise value in the portal stood at ₹422 crore and in 2021-22 it stood at ₹1.06 lakh crore. The transaction was at ₹2 lakh crore in FY23.

Nearly 50% of this GMV till March 2024 has been attributed to the procurement of services, registering a 205% growth when compared to last year. GeM chief executive officer PK Singh said procurement of services from the portal has jumped from ₹66,000 crore in FY23 to ₹2.05 lakh crore so far this fiscal. Goods worth ₹1.95 lakh crore have been bought from the platform. Automobiles, computers and office furniture are some of the major product categories.

"GeM has been successful in breaking down the cartel of established service providers, paving way for small domestic entrepreneurs to participate in government tenders at any time," a commerce ministry statement said on Friday.

UK Navy ships maintenance at TN facility

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

FOR the first time, two ships of the UK's Royal Navy, owned by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, have arrived at Larsen and Toubro's Shipbuilding facility at Kattupalli near Chennai for scheduled maintenance activities.

RFA 'Argus' and RFA 'Lyme Bay' arrived at the shipyard located in Ennore, North of Chennai for 'Assisted Maintenance Period' and Self Maintenance Period", respectively, a press release from L&T Shipbuilding said on Friday. "The collaboration between Royal Navy and L&T Shipbuilding exemplifies spirit of partnership and is a direct result of logistics-sharing pact signed between the UK and India in 2022," L&T Member of Executive Council of Management and Advisor to CMD J D Patil said.

Zee reduces workforce by 50% in Tech & Innovation Centre in B'luru

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEE) has cut down its workforce by 50% in its Technology & Innovation Centre (TIC), Bengaluru. Actioned by MD & CEO of ZEEL Punit Goenka, the steps are in line with his approach to optimise the resources and arrive at a cost-effective structure to drive continued growth, the media & entertainment company said in a statement.

"Basis the guidance received from the Board during the recently conducted Monthly Management Mentorship (3M) Program, the MD & CEO has pruned the TIC's structure by nearly 50% and streamlined its scope of work," ZEEL said in its statement. Earlier this week, ZEEL announced the 3M Program to enable the management team to achieve key performance metrics, including the targeted 20% EBITDA margin, as proposed by Goenka. In order to drive the 3M Program, ZEEL's Board has formed a Special Committee to review the management's business performance and provide the required directional guidance.

The Special Committee comprises of ZEE Chairman R Gopalan and Uttam Prakash Agarwal, Chairman of the Audit Committee.

This action by Zee came after Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) (now known as Culver Max Entertainment) earlier this year decided to terminate its merger with ZEEL, more than two years after it was first announced. Sony's decision to scrap the merger is being seen as a big setback for Zee which is struggling to grow its revenue and maintain profit level.

Zee said that the 3M Program Special Committee has invested its time in conducting a detailed analysis of the Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC), which had incurred an expenditure of approximately Rs 600 crore in the last year. The Committee noted that the TIC has developed a substantial level of technology and tools; however, it has highlighted the immediate need to focus on Return on Investment.

Shapoorji Group firm files papers for ₹7K cr IPO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

SHAPOORJI PALLONJI (SP) Group-backed infrastructure engineering and construction company Afcons Infrastructure Ltd (AIL) has filed draft papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise ₹7,000 crore through an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO is a combination of fresh issue of shares worth ₹1,250 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to ₹5,750 crore by promoter Goswami Infratech Private Limited (a SP Group company). The company may consider raising up to ₹250 crore in the "pre-IPO placement" round.

Currently, promoter and promoter group entities own 99.48% stake in Afcons Infrastructure. The IPO comes at a time when SP Group is tirelessly working towards cut its debt. Afcons operates across five major infra business verticals -- marine and industrial, surface transport, urban infrastructure, hydro and underground, oil and gas.

Force Motors to shut down tractor unit on March 31

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PUNE-BASED Force Motors on Friday said that it is closing its agricultural tractors business and related activities from March 31. The company attributed the decision to its product rationalisation programme under which it will focus on its core segments.

"The Company has, under its product rationalization programme, decided to focus mainly on its core segments such as Shared Mobility Transportation, Last Mile Mobility, goods and transportation, manufacturing of High Technology Critical Aggregates for Premium Luxury OEM's and creation of Special Vehicles for Civil and Defence applications and a decision has been taken to exit the Tractor Business from the product portfolio of the Company," Force Motors said in an exchange filing.

The company, known for its multi-seater passenger vehicles and Gurkha SUV, also makes engines for luxury carmakers such as BMW and Mercedes cars in India. According to FY23 annual report, Force earned about 48% of its revenue from vehicle sales while about 36% revenue comes from contract engine manufacturing.

Sale of agricultural tractors of the company accounted for total revenue of ₹182.53 crore for the year ended March 31, 2023 (representing 3.66 % contribution to the Company's total revenue for the financial year ended March 31, 2023) and the net block of the assets of the unit as at March 31, 2023 was ₹12.29 crore.

The decision to shut down the tractor business comes at a time when tractor sales are under severe pressure. Mahindra and Mahindra, India's largest tractor maker, last month cut its forecast for the domestic tractor sales for the industry for FY24 citing weakness in the rural economy.

HOPE AMID SLOWDOWN

IT sector hiring: TCS begins recruiting freshers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

THOUGH IT hiring has been witnessing a slowdown for the past a few quarters, there is piece of good news for freshers as the country's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has kickstarted its fresher hiring for engineering candidates graduating in the current year.

The IT company announced its annual TCS national qualifier test (NQT) and has called freshers to apply for Ninja, Digital and Prime categories. While the Ninja category offers a package of ₹3.36 lakh per annum, the Digital and Prime categories offer ₹7 lakh and ₹9-11.5 lakh per annum, respectively, according to the company's website.

TCS NQT is exclusively open for graduating batch of 2024 and it has called applications from B.Tech, B.E, M. Tech, M.E, MCA and MSc batch. Tests will be held on April 26 and the last day to apply is April 10. Earlier during a December earnings call, the company's Chief HR Officer Milind Lakkad said that they commenced campus hiring process for the next year and that they see excitement among freshers to join the company.

Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD & CEO of CIEL HR Services, said, "Overall campus hiring is expected to remain slow, 15-20% less this year than last year. Many IT companies are adopting a cautious approach by reducing their hiring budgets in response to the uncertain market conditions. However, companies have been hiring from campuses that promise them expertise in the new-age skills of AI, ML, Cloud and Analytics." Recently, ICRA said hiring activity in the IT industry has been muted over the past five quarters due to subdued demand prospects and it expects it to remain muted in the near term with gradual pick up until the growth momentum improves.

Deepak Jotwani, Assistant Vice President & Sector Head, ICRA, had said, "Attrition levels are expected to stabilise over the near term, inching closer to the long-term average of 12-13%, as overall slowdown in growth momentum and strong hiring in the previous fiscal has corrected the demand-supply mismatch witnessed earlier."

Firm imparts GenAI training to employees

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES has achieved Amazon Web Services (AWS) Generative AI (GenAI) Competency as a launch partner. TCS has trained more than 350,000 of its employees on GenAI.

The IT firm is among the first a few Global System Integrator Partners to achieve the AWS GenAI competency, which was granted to partners that possess extensive knowledge and technical expertise in using AWS technologies. These AWS Partners facilitate integration and deployment of AWS-based solutions to meet unique needs of all customers, from start-ups to global enterprises. TCS has implemented AI to transform different parts of the value chain for its customers.

Alonso commits future to Bayer Leverkusen

Xabi Alonso, who was seen by many as Liverpool's top target to replace Jurgen Klopp as their manager, said on Friday he is staying at Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen next season. The 42-year-old Spaniard has Leverkusen on course for a trophy treble, including their first ever German league crown.

All-rounder has settled in at CSK like a duck to water, and he has looked great so far

RACHIN RAVINDRA, THE KIWI AT HOME IN CHENNAI

GOMESH S @ Chennai

WHEN Rachin Ravindra landed in India for the ODI World Cup last October, he had never opened the batting in the format. Barring the five T20Is in 2021, he had batted only at No 6 or below for New Zealand across formats. Over the next few weeks, however, he would go on and stamp his authority at the top - 578 runs, 64 average and 106.44 strike rate - playing a crucial role in the Black Caps reaching the semifinal of the global event. Such was his impact that he was even awarded the ICC Emerging Player of the Year 2023.

Cut to March 22. Draped in yellow, Rachin was walking out to bat for Chennai Super Kings against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on the opening day. He looked different. He seemed a lot more built up holding a solid base at the crease. He was not just a southpaw who batted like a breeze in the World Cup, but an aggressor taking down bowlers for fun in the powerplay. Yes, the pitches for the first two games were flat, but that in no way takes away the flamboyance with which Rachin smashed every bowler who came in his way. This is no exaggeration, and the numbers say as much. 37 off 15 against RCB, and 46 from 20 balls versus Gujarat Titans. 15 boundaries (six 6s and nine 4s) in 35 balls, accounting for 86 per cent of his runs.

This was not the Rachin who played against India in the Mumbai Test in late 2021 and took a picture alongside his namesake and CSK teammate Ravindra Jadeja. In the last few months, the New Zealand youngster has turned into one of the exciting openers to look forward to. Ask him what has changed, Rachin says, not much, but for a lot pieces and things falling together in place.

"Since I've been at the top for my domestic team (Wellington) in New Zealand, you always have opportunities to face a new ball and face bowlers and stuff, which is great. For me, it was more about how I can get better against playing spin, put a little bit more pressure on the bowlers in that way. And I think it was just like a development thing being in the nets and hitting specific shots that I wanted to work on. And lucky enough, it sort of happened," said the left-hander. "It took a long time. I practiced these shots for a number of years and it was nice to get that in the middle and you have a nice wicket to play on and all of a sudden it all sort of falls into place and then you find your method from there and you're like, 'okay, this is a shot that I can continue playing because it finds me success or whatever it is'. So, yeah, I think it was just the volume of practicing certain shots that I wanted to play," he added.

> Still trying to be a fully rounded athlete, not just even in the gym, but I guess off the field too, making sure you've got that balance and your perspective on life and cricket.
>
> Rachin Ravindra

One of the things that strike about the 24-year-old early into the interaction is how clear he is in his thinking. He is experiencing something new, and enjoying it, but at the same time very pragmatic about where he is in life and cricket and what lies ahead. He is not worried about scoring X number of runs or bowling Y number of overs in the tournament. He admits Devon Conway could comeback at some point or team combination could change and just wants to play cricket while contributing as much as he can. What has helped him be this way is the communication and freedom given by the CSK team management. Both head coach Stephen Fleming and batting coach Michael Hussey have constantly spoken about clearing the head of the players, allowing them to focus on whatever they want to do for the team. "... doesn't feel like it's a hierarchy because you can always have a nice conversation with Fleming if you want to, you can have a conversation with Hussey, you can have a conversation with MS Dhoni, you can have a conversation with Rutu. It's all pretty chill, which helps me a lot. I can come in and just not try to be anyone else," explains the CSK opener.

Rachin Ravindra in action against Gujarat on Tuesday | ASHWIN PRASATH

When it comes to Rachin's development, one other person has had a critical role to play — former Wellington and New Zealand A coach, Sriram Krishnamurthy. Currently working with the Super Kings academy in Chennai, Sriram has been massive influence in Rachin's growing years. "I've known him since I was maybe 15. Just about learning about different things and he's good at having a hard word now and again. He can tell me when something's not right which is great," said Rachin, before adding, "...it's kind of after games, every few games, he'll sort of check in and stuff and we'll have a little conversation about where my cricket's going and what life is off the field and stuff. So it's nice to have a relationship with someone and be able to be involved in Chennai, a familiar face."

As much as Rachin has his roots in Karnataka and spent a lot of his teenage years playing in Tamil Nadu as well, it is hard not look at the youngster as a Kiwi. Whether it is the way he moves on the field, or the lowkey personality, the general perspective of sport and athleticism, it all adds up. Apart from upskilling, Rachin has also worked significantly on his body, adding more muscle and power to his game. "Still trying to be a fully rounded athlete, not just even in the gym, but I guess off the field too, making sure you've got that balance and your perspective on life and cricket. Yeah, it's probably the Kiwi way too to maintain that not necessarily fitness but keep driving your body forward because there's so much cricket. So the better shape you're in, I guess you are more equipped to deal with injuries or you know, can go back to back games because you finish a little bit. I wouldn't say I'm the greatest out there. But, you know, I'm still working towards it, I'm still building my body," he said.

While there is already comparisons with Hussey, who also opened the batting for CSK, and what more he could become, Rachin prefers to be in the present. He has played only two games of the IPL and just happy to keep doing more of it for the franchise. CSK fans and team management, too, wouldn't mind him continuing to bat the way he has in his first two games.

LSG, PBKS aim to get back to winning ways

Having lost their last respective matches, both Lucknow Super Giants and Punjab Kings aim to get back to winning ways when they take on each other in Lucknow. A look...

BOWLING WOES FOR RAHUL AND CO

Except for Krunal Pandya, all LSG bowlers leaked runs against Rajasthan Royals. The pacers, especially, were ineffective as the troika of Mohsin Khan, Naveen-ul-Haq and Yash Thakur gave aways 129 runs from 11 overs they bowled in Jaipur. West Indies pace sensation Shamar Joseph is an option and skipper **KL Rahul** may go for it handing Joseph an IPL debut on Saturday.

TODAY'S MATCH : LSG **vs** PBKS, Lucknow
Live on Star Sports & Jio Cinema @ 7.30 pm

BAIRSTOW'S FORM A CONCERN FOR PUNJAB

After a below-par show in the Test series against India, Jonny Bairstow, who missed IPL 2023 due to injury, was expected to make a strong comeback for Punjab. Unfortunately, the English batter failed to give explosive start even as his team won the first and lost the second match. He had an underwhelming opening season with PBKS in 2022 as well and the batter will be raring to make amends when he takes the field against Lucknow.

Kohli's 83 in vain as KKR reign supreme in Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

VIRAT Kohli's 83 runs were not enough for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru as Kolkata Knight Riders became the first team to register an away win in this edition of the Indian Premier League.

With 183 runs to chase, Kolkata made a flying start as Phil Salt and Sunil Narine, playing his 500th T20 match, came all guns blazing right from the word go. Salt smashed 18 runs from the opening over, while Narine followed it with 16 runs off Yash Dayal. The duo scored 85 runs in just six overs. Narine even came close to his first half-century of the season, but Mayank Dagar bowled the West Indies allrounder for 47. Vijaykumar Vyshak also got the wicket in his first over, but that did not stop the Kolkata juggernaut.

The wicket of Salt paired captain Shreyas Iyer with Venkatesh Iyer and the pair piled on runs to rub salt on the wound of Bengaluru fans. Venkatesh hit 20 runs off Alzarri Joseph's over to take Kolkata close to the target. He reached his 13th T20 fifty and perished soon, but not before taking his team close to the finish line. Shreyas clobbered Dagar for a six to seal the match with seven wickets in hand.

Venkatesh Iyer's fifty took Kolkata over the line in Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Earlier, Kolkata won the toss and asked Bengaluru to bat first at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Harshit Rana, the hero of Kolkata's previous match against Sunrisers Hyderabad gave his side a breakthrough when he sent Bengaluru's captain Faf du Plessis back for eight. However, that did not stop Kohli from going after bowlers as he smashed Mitchell Starc for a six and a boundary the very next over.

Kohli found a reliable partner in Cameron Green as the pair added 65 runs for the second wicket. Looking at the budding partnership, Shreyas Iyer gave the ball to Andre Russell, who repaid the faith shown by his captain with the wicket of Green for 33. Kohli remained unmoved and brought up his second half-century of the season off 36 balls. Maxwell, who replaced Green at the crease rode his luck to score 28 off 19, as he was dropped twice by Kolkata fielders. **Brief scores:** RCB 182/6 in 20 ovs (Kohli 83, Green 33; Russell 2/29) lost to KKR 186/3 in 16.5 ovs (Iyer 50, Narine 47).

Make-or-break time

CLUB FOOTBALL IN EUROPE RETURNS WITH SOME BIG MATCHES OVER THE WEEKEND. HERE'S A LOOK AT SOME OF THE TIES...

Arsenal are currently on top & a point ahead of third-placed Man City | AP

Man City vs Arsenal | Sunday | 9 pm

The winner of this match could potentially get the kick to go on to capture the Premier League title. Arsenal are on a hot streak with eight back-to-back wins and they have scored in abundance. Summer signing Kai Havertz, after a difficult start with the Gunners, has also been a big influence in recent games. With Man City's key defenders – Kyle Walker and John Stones – set to miss the game, the Gunners will be fancying their chances. Kevin De Bruyne, who has suffered an injury-plagued season, will be hoping to inspire the home team.

Liverpool vs Brighton | Sunday | 6:30 pm

Liverpool, the third team in contention for the EPL title, will face a tricky test against Brighton. With some of the players returning after injuries, they'll be keen to get maximum points and put the pressure on Arsenal and City, who'll be battling each other just a few hours later.

Saturday: Tottenham vs Luton Town | 8:30 pm; Aston Villa vs Wolves | 11 pm; Brentford vs Man United (1:30am)

Live on Star Sports Network

Top-four battle

The final CL spot is up for grabs with Villa currently occupying the fourth spot. They are three points ahead of Tottenham, who have played a game less. Man United, who are sixth, also have a good chance. Spurs will host Luton Town on Saturday while Villa will host Wolves. Man United, who knocked out Liverpool of the FA Cup, will face an away test against Brentford.

Harry Kane | AP

Bayern vs Dortmund | Saturday | 11 pm

Even though they sit 10 points behind leaders Bayer Leverkusen, Bayern have plenty to play for in Saturday's tie against Dortmund. They would want to keep up their momentum ahead of a visit to Arsenal in the Champions League quarterfinals in early April. Striker Harry Kane's return is a big boost for the Bavarian giants. It is an equally vital tie for Dortmund, who currently occupy the final CL spot. Missing out on the top four could have huge ramifications for them.

Live on Sony Sports Network

WFI to fund itself if sports ministry's suspension continues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

AS the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) could not obtain consensus from its secretary Prem Chand Lochab to hold an annual general meeting, it organised a special general meeting on Friday and made a few important amendments to the constitution. According to the constitution, president can call a special general meeting anytime. It was held on the sidelines of the ongoing U-15 and U-20 national championships in Noida.

Neither Lochab nor senior vice president Devender Kadyan — the two members from another faction who won the elections — attend the meeting. Kadyan contested as an executive member of the Assam unit but the state body was apparently not recognised by the WFI. The remaining 13 posts were won by the faction, which had the backing of former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Incidentally, Karan, son of Brij Bhushan, who is president of the Uttar Pradesh unit, too didn't attend the meeting. Incumbent WFI president Sanjay Kumar Singh and the UP association secretary represented the state. During the meeting, the WFI decided to arrange funds for its functioning, hosting national camps and sending teams abroad if the sports ministry doesn't consider its request to revoke the suspension of the federation. "The WFI has already sent a request in this regard and will do so again. The United World Wrestling revoked the suspension and even the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) dissolved the ad-hoc committee formed to manage WFI's affairs so the WFI should be recognised by the ministry as well. But if suspension continues, the WFI will have no option but to arrange funds and run its affairs," a source in the know of developments told this daily. Notably, the government grants funds for training, competitions and foreign exposure trips of the wrestlers under heads like the Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC).

Apart from this, a few key amendments were also made to the constitution. The WFI decided that from now on a candidate contesting for the second time but for a different post would not be required to win by a two-third majority or more. Interestingly, the old clause meant Sanjay Singh, who was a joint secretary in the previous regime, had to win by two-third majority to replace Brij Bhushan at the helm. "The old clause was not clear and this led to confusion during the election last year. The amendment is done to bring clarity," added the source. Another change is the removal of a clause from the constitution that made it mandatory for a state unit to obtain recognition from its respective state Olympic association to get affiliation from the WFI. "That clause was meant for a new state unit applying for affiliation but it was misused during the last election. Anyway, there is a court ruling that says the state Olympic body should have no say in the affiliation of the state unit from its respective national federation."

The WFI also decided to make every affiliated unit compliant with the Sports Code as was directed by the court.

Under-fire Stimac likely to stay in charge

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

DESPITE a shocking loss against Afghanistan, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) may not sack Igor Stimac immediately. It is reported that the top brass of the AIFF is inclined to heed to the recommendation of its technical committee to remove national men's team head coach but contractual issues may make it difficult to do so.

Also given the fact that India's next World Cup qualifiers round 2 match is slated for June 6 against Kuwait in Kolkata, changing the man at the helm at this point in time may not be a good idea, according to AIFF sources. "He (Stimac) is likely to be in charge of the team in the next two matches in June," a source said. India will have to get a favourable result against Kuwait if they want to make it to the World Cup qualifiers round 3 for the first time.

BADMINTON

Sindhu loses marathon match

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

IT was a gripping tie that triggered plenty of emotions. PV Sindhu was pushed to the limits and her warrior spirit, which has helped her cross many hurdles in the past, was evident in her play. The match went the distance (1 hour, 17 minutes) but in the end, it was not enough for Sindhu.

Facing Supanida Katethong of Thailand in the women's singles quarterfinals of the ongoing Madrid Spain Masters on Friday, Sindhu slammed her racquet on the court in disgust as she failed to retrieve a shot from her rival at the end of the match. That was telling as she was probably upset with herself after failing to capitalise on her early advantage in the deciding game. That proved to be costly as Supanida clawed back into the contest before going on to seal the deal. Sindhu lost 26-24, 17-21, 20-22.

Sindhu was leading 10-5 in the final game before Supanida's fightback

Things were going according to Sindhu's script early on in the final game. She was playing with confidence, mixing her shots well and forcing her opponent to make mistakes. Patient and willing to engage in rallies, Sindhu was doing enough to maintain the gap. Attacking her backhand and going toe-to-toe in front of the net, the double Olympic gold medallist was in charge. However, a bit of fortune favoured Supanida (two shots came off net giving no chance to Sindhu). And the Thai World No 17 shuttler capitalised further to close the gap in no time. Even though the Indian (World No 11) entered the mid-game break with a slender lead (11-9), it was a different story after the break. Earlier, Sindhu had fought bravely to save multiple game points and clinch the opening game.

Meanwhile, N Sikki Reddy and B Sumeeth Reddy won 14-21, 21-11, 21-17 against Indonesia's Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto and Lisa Ayu Kusumawati to enter the mixed doubles semifinals.

EXPRESS READ

Anuja's century puts West Zone in command

PUNE: Former India all-rounder Anuja Patil hit a century as West Zone took a substantial 111-run first-innings lead against Central Zone on the second day of the Women's Inter-Zonal Multi-Day Cup here. After Central scored 245 in their first essay, Patil's 122 off 120 balls was well supported by Jemimah Rodriguez (69 of 97 balls) as the pair added 155 runs for the fifth wicket with West ending their first innings at 356.

Bopanna-Ebden storm into Miami final

MIAMI: Indian tennis stalwart Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden sailed into the men's doubles final of the Miami Open with a straight-set win over Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos here. Bopanna and Ebden, the Australian Open winners, hardly broke a sweat to get the better of Spain's Granollers and Argentina's Zeballos 6-1, 6-4 in the semifinals.

The US on Friday unveiled final pollution standards for trucks, placing vehicle tailpipes at the forefront of his climate crisis agenda. The new rules will apply to freight trucks, school buses and waste haulers built between 2027 and 2032

A UN report says most of the world's food waste comes from households. Out of total food wasted in 2022, households were responsible for as much as 631 million tonnes — equivalent to 60%. Data shows food loss and waste generates 8-10% of annual GHG emissions — almost five times that of the aviation sector. The connect between food waste and biodiversity loss is now recognised in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which calls for halving global food waste by 2030

MONUMENTAL FOOD WASTE

WORLD BINS

1 BILLION MEALS A DAY WHEN 783 MILLION ARE GOING HUNGRY

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

U.N. ESTIMATES

PER CAPITA PER YEAR FOOD WASTAGE IN KG IN G7 NATIONS

Italy	107
Canada	79
Germany	78
UK	76
US	73
France	61
Japan	60

LOWEST AND HIGHEST WASTAGE OF FOOD IN KG PER CAPITA PER YEAR

Bhutan	19
Philippines	26
India	55
Maldives	207
Seychelles	183
Dominican Republic	160
Iraq	143
Rwanda	141
Vanuatu	141
Portugal	124
Lebanon	128
Switzerland	119

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @Chennai

THERE is more than enough food produced in the world to feed everyone, yet as many as 783 million people still go hungry. This is because we collectively junk one billion meals everyday.

This has been quantified in the Food Waste Index Report 2024, released earlier this week, co-authored by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and UK-based NGO WRAP. It is the most accurate global estimate on food waste at retail and consumer levels.

According to the report, in the year 2022, the world wasted 1.05 billion tonnes of food, which amounts to one-fifth (19%) of the total food available to the consumers at the retail, food service and household level. This was in addition to the 13% of the world's food lost in the supply chain, as estimated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), from post-harvest excluding retail.

Shockingly, most of the food waste comes from households. Out of the total food wasted in 2022, households were responsible for 631 million tonnes equivalent to 60%. On an average, each person wastes 79 kg of food annually. At least one billion meals are wasted worldwide every single day, using a very conservative assessment on the share of food waste that is edible. It is equivalent to 1.3 meals every day for everyone in the world impacted by hunger, the report said.

"Food waste is a global tragedy. Millions will go hungry today as food is wasted across the world," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP. "Not only is this a major development issue, but the impacts of such unnecessary waste are causing substantial costs to the climate and nature. The good news is we know if countries prioritise this issue, they can significantly reverse food loss and waste, reduce climate impacts and economic losses, and accelerate progress on global goals." It is important to remember that one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the Paris Agreement, is a global blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet adopted by all UN Member States. It includes sustainable consumption and production patterns. The SDG 12, target 12.3 captures a commitment to halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food loss across supply chains by 2030. It has a key role to play in the delivery of other SDGs, including those around Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Sustainable Cities (SDG 11) and Climate Action (SDG 13).

8-10% in GHG & $1 trillion loss

In economic terms, the food that is wasted costs $1 trillion and it is also an environmental failure. Food systems contribute an estimated one-third of anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Despite this, as of 2022, only 21 out of 193 countries that have submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the United Nations as a requirement of the Paris Agreement have so far included commitments to reduce food loss and waste directly in their NDCs.

Of the 21, 7 countries have food waste commitments only, 12 have food loss commitments and two have both food waste and food loss commitments. An additional 29 NDCs mention plans to improve food waste disposal and treatment, such as increased composting of food waste and diverting organic waste from landfills. There are also countries such as the United Kingdom, South Africa and Iceland that refer to secondary policy documents where food loss and waste reduction is discussed, but it is not directly within their NDC, whereas other countries, such as Norway, have made commitments in policy documents not referenced in the NDC.

UNEP encourages all governments to include food loss and waste reduction in their NDCs at the earliest. The 2025 NDCs revision process provides a key opportunity to raise climate ambition by integrating food loss and waste. Integrating comprehensive measures to tackle food waste within the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) is another opportunity for fostering sustainable development, actioning target 16 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which specifically calls out halving global food waste by 2030, officials said.

G20's role in food waste reduction

Only four G20 countries (Australia, Japan, UK and US) and the European Union have food waste estimates suitable for tracking progress to 2030. An additional two G20 countries have suitable household estimates (Canada, Saudi Arabia), with Brazil's estimate expected late 2024.

G20 countries can take a leading role in international cooperation and policy development to deliver SDG 12.3. They can use their substantial influence on global consumer trends to promote awareness and education about food waste at home, and can share their expertise with countries just getting started in tackling this issue.

Countries such as Japan and the UK show that change at scale is possible, with reductions of 18% and 31%, respectively. India has subnational estimates only. "With the huge cost to the environment, society and global economies caused by food waste, we need greater coordinated action across continents and supply chains. We support UNEP in calling for more G20 countries to measure food waste and work towards SDG 12.3," said Harriet Lamb, CEO of WRAP.

Rich, poor countries equally waste food

The latest findings reveal a surprising truth: food waste is a universal challenge that spans across both wealthy and developing nations. Analysis of data from over 100 countries demonstrates that the issue of discarded food does not discriminate by economic status, highlighting that both rich and poor countries contribute significantly to the global waste problem.

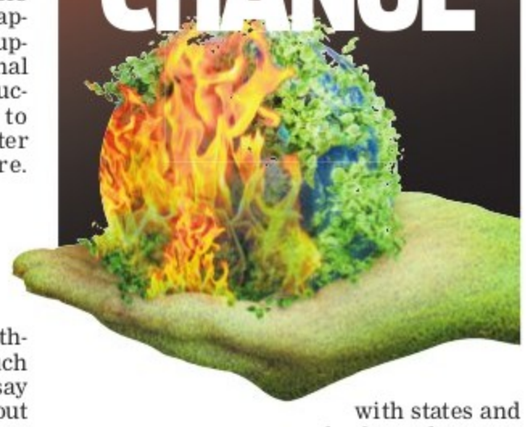
The impact of climate is starkly evident in warmer regions, where higher temperatures accelerate food spoilage. This is exacerbated by limited access to refrigeration and a preference for fresh foods, which often include parts that are not consumed.

The difference in the amount of food wasted by households across economic divides is narrower than anticipated, with poorer households wasting only about 7 kg less food per person annually compared to their wealthier counterparts. This close margin underscores that the roots of food waste extend beyond wealth, pointing to factors such as inadequate storage, reliance on perishable food, and the hustle of daily life that limits time for meal preparation.

Among all the countries, per capita per year food waste at the household level was highest in Maldives at 207 kg, while in India it stands at 55 kg.

XPLAINER

Reimagining infrastructure in the age of CLIMATE CHANGE



THE India-led climate adaptation initiative, Centre for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI), advocates making modern infrastructure projects such as highways, powerlines, communication lines and housing disaster-proof in the age of climate change-induced regular extreme weather events. CDRI showcases India's rising leadership role in climate action and has 31 countries and six international agencies as members.

Amit Porthi, Director General of CDRI talks to **Jitendra Choubey** on the challenges to make people understand the large financial risks associated with natural disasters and how an inclusive and integrated approach can address the challenges. The upcoming CDRI conference, the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2024, is another effort to strengthen the global discourse on disaster and climate resilient infrastructure. Excerpts:

● How is disaster resilience infrastructure different from other standard infrastructure?

When our infrastructure such as roads, bridges, power, telecommunication and others fail during extreme climatic events such as cyclones, floods, heatwaves, etc., we say these are not resilient. When we talk about disaster resilient infrastructure (DRI), we try to say, 'How do we build roads that don't get washed away by floods? How do we build houses that don't fall down during an earthquake? How do we build our telecommunication systems that don't get damaged during a cyclone?' Most conventional infrastructures are designed to serve the standard model. But changing climatic patterns such as enhanced intensity of cyclonic frequency and sudden floods patterns are contributing to the failure of infrastructure.

For example, in Odisha, due to climate change we are noticing that wind speeds are getting stronger in some parts. So, we are looking at the state's power infrastructure. We did a study to understand its weak points. If the wind speed exceeds a certain threshold or are there weak points that can cause failure to that power system, we propose plans to strengthen it.

● Has CDRI conducted any analysis of the country's current state of infrastructure? Do we have any examples in the country where disaster resilient infrastructure (DRI) has been developed?

We will be coming out with a study on telecommunications in the next few months in which we are looking into five states, including Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with states and the Central government. Our study is on analysing the current risks and how to address them.

Q&A

For example, a few decades back while designing airports, climate change induced extreme weather events were not taken into consideration on priority in their planning. Airports are mostly outside cities, require flatland and often around a river. We examined 112 airports around the world and came up with a study analysing the risks associated with them. We looked deeper into about 12 airports in member countries to understand how they prepared for some risks related to flooding or heavy winds or landslides. Sometimes approach roads to the airport get washed away in floods that make the airport dysfunctional, causing loss of millions of dollars. We have come up with a set of advisories to the airport authorities, saying please pay attention to these things.

● Does CDRI have an advisory role in the Indian government to help plan DRI?

We are a global organisation that provides assistance to all member-governments and other governments too, in capacity building. There are not so many institutions in this space. In fact, we act like brokers of technical expertise as we have a coalition of different expertise sitting in different countries to provide technical expertise on DRI. For instance, if the Netherlands has a solution for urban flood or sea ingression, we can provide that advice to those governments that need to address flooding problems in their countries. We help governments look at newer ways of addressing problems.

● How does international collaboration contribute to advancing DRI?

Through consultations with our member countries, we try to look at different successful examples, their practices and how knowledge can be transferred to member countries. We also identify the gaps and the need for investments in this space. We are also pursuing collective adaptation finances. That's an example of how we bring coalition members together to focus on the DRI agenda. The upcoming ICDRI is another effort to advance our goal.

● What are the challenges before CDRI in implementing DRI?

People still show a kind of hesitation to finance their DRI. They invest a lot in their infrastructure projects but are unaware about how climate change induced weather extremities could impact them in the long run. Also, there is a lack of data to create predictable models to make people understand how extreme floods and frequent cyclones could put their huge infrastructure at risk.

There are also a lot of myths that DRI is expensive. Sometimes it is true but not always. For instance, investing in mangrove to reduce risk to coastal infrastructure is quite cheap instead of investing in concrete walls to stop coastal erosion.

Currently, we are analysing national budgets to get a sense how a country perceives its disaster risk. We say, if you are hit by an earthquake or a major cyclone, it will cause a certain damage to the existing infrastructure. Would you spend $50 million to repair it or run for $2 billion to make it afresh. Is your budget able to provide?

We are trying to make them realise the need for capacity building programmes in the creation of future DRI. We are providing technical assistance right now to four countries — India, Fiji, Bhutan, and Nepal.

Amit Porthi

Declaring man-animal conflict a state disaster is the way forward

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

TO address the alarming rise in cases of man-animal conflicts and deaths of humans, heads of forest departments of three prime Western Ghats states - Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu - have just started working together. They are focusing on how to ensure better coordination and getting all states on the same page in decision making.

Following the death of a tribal in Wayanad after he came in contact with a radio-collared makhana from Karnataka on February 10, the Kerala government declared man-animal conflict as a state disaster. It was not the first state to do so. States like Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have already declared man-animal conflict as a state disaster. In February, Karnataka declared snake bite as a notifiable disease for better health facilities and for creating an integrated health information platform to manage the availability of anti-venom for treatment of patients.

"Karnataka and Tamil Nadu should also declare man-animal conflict as a disaster. This will help in better management of wildlife and improve coordination. Once man-animal conflict is declared as a disaster, a nodal officer will be appointed who will take over the entire operation when such a situation arises. This was discussed at the tripartite meeting and was seen as the need of the hour," said an official from Karnataka.

The appointment of nodal officers was one of the list of charters prepared and agreed upon by Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu during the tripartite meeting on March 10. The nodal officer would be of the level of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF). The heads of forest departments of the three states had prepared and signed the Interstate Coordination Committee Charter-2024. From Karnataka, not just the chief wildlife warden, but forest, environment and ecology minister Eshwar Khandre was also present and had signed the charter.

The charter stated that the nodal officer will ensure strong leadership and strategic directions for the activities. The nodal officer will provide collaborative leadership and ensure coordination and cooperation. The nodal officer will also streamline the decision making process and ensure conflicts are addressed proactively.

Explaining the need for declaring man-animal conflict in Karnataka and in other states a disaster, a senior Karnataka forest department official citing the example of the recent elephant capture operation in Thaneer said: "Crowd management is the duty of the police. Every time there is a situation, forest staffers have to request police security and only a handful of them are deployed. The staffers have to request for assistance from the revenue department for using their land and setting up camps. But if the matter escalates to the level of a disaster whenever such a situation arises, the nodal officer takes charge and lists out the details — man, machine and power required. All of them are immediately addressed. This will ensure better and faster management."

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30.03.2024
SATURDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Van Gogh born

Vincent Van Gogh was born in 1853 in Groot Zundert, North Brabant, Netherlands. He was primarily a self-taught artist

CREATIONS

He created over 1,000 drawings, 150 watercolors, 10 graphic works, 9 lithographs, an etching, and around 900+ paintings in his short career

MASTERPIECE

The Starry Night is Van Gogh's most famous painting. The oil painting was made in 1889, of a starry night overlooking a town and the hills

INSPIRATION

His life and work was the subject of the 2017 film *Loving Vincent*, world's first fully painted animated feature film

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

Sitarist Rishab Rikhiram Sharma brings his initiative 'Sitar for Mental Health' to Bengaluru this weekend. He also opens up about the inception of this initiative and carrying forward the legacy of being the last disciple of Bharat Ratna late Pt Ravi Shankar

'HE WAS VERY FUNNY BUT WAS THE STRICTEST TEACHER'

POOJA DAS

WHENEVER sitarist **Rishab Rikhiram Sharma** renders a melody, be it a rendition of *Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar*'s *Pehla Nasha* or the theme song of the 1972 classic *The Godfather*, it is always in an attempt to expand the horizons of Indian classical music. Performing in the city this weekend for a novel initiative of 'Sitar for Mental Health', Sharma reminisces about his first encounter with the instrument. "My parents were more keen on teaching my elder brother. They won't even let me touch the instrument. Now I think they were trying to play reverse psychology with me," laughs Sharma. It was only when a damaged sitar returned from Switzerland, that Sharma's intrigue transformed into fascination after seeing the process of the instrument being mended. "I was just watching the sitar for a couple of days, then on the third day I asked my dad if I could try it. He said okay and within a few minutes, I was playing songs on it. He finally decided to start teaching me the next day when I was 10 years old."

Sharma's talent soon caught the eye of sitar virtuoso late Pandit Ravi Shankar after a performance in Delhi in 2011, when a clip reached Shankar's wife. Becoming the youngest and last disciple of the musical legend was completely unexpected for Sharma. "He was very funny but was the strictest teacher. I was just very scared of him whenever I would learn from him, but now I understand," Sharma reflects, acknowledging the urgency with which Shankar imparted his knowledge, aware of his limited time at his age.

> *He [Pt Ravi Shankar] would often tell me that I was probably his last disciple and I'm going to have to take this legacy forward. As a child, I didn't understand the gravity of the situation. As I grow older, I see how big a responsibility it is*
>
> Rishab Rikhiram Sharma, sitarist

Having the responsibility of carrying forward the legacy of not just as the 'disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar' but as the son of a family of respected instrument makers could become an overwhelming task. "He [Pt Ravi Shankar] would often tell me that I was probably his last disciple and I'm going to have to take this legacy forward. As a child, I didn't understand the gravity of the situation. As I grow older, I see how big a responsibility it is," shares Sharma, who performed during the first Deepavali party at the White House in 2022.

A vocal advocate of mental health, Sharma says that his initiative was born out of personal struggles. The pandemic, coupled with the loss of his grandfather in 2020, plunged him into grief and anxiety. Turning to music and therapy, he discovered the healing potential of the sitar. "I realised the power that sitar harnesses in making you feel better and how interesting of a cognitive journey it is to play this instrument. So I just want people to experience it," he says. While beginning the initiative, he had to navigate through the stigma attached to conversations around mental health. "I haven't seen any musicians talk about mental health. People even in my own family questioned why I was doing it, worried about the kind of perception it might project. And that's not their fault either. That's just how the content was in the previous generations, says Sharma, adding, "I even changed the word from mental health to mindfulness but I felt that's not right. I'm sharing my story so that people know they are not alone."

The New York-based music producer has always tried his best as an artist to make his music more relevant. "I love hip hop, as well as rap music. If you listen to my tracks such as *Chanakya*, and *Tilak Kamod*, they are hip in nature, they're not typically classical," he says.

(Sitar for Mental Health is on March 31, 7pm at Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts. Tickets available on zomato.com)

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a seasoned hospitality professional with a rich background in business development, sales, and marketing with renowned hotels and F&B companies. With an unwavering passion for food, travel, and wines, he takes great delight in sharing his insights and experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucity express@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,000 from Nando's**

1. Name the traditional Japanese summer dish made with cold noodles.
2. What savoury delicacy from Mexican streets involves grilling corn and topping it with cheese, lime, and spices?
3. What Brazilian dish features skewered meat cooked over an open flame, often served with rice and beans?

CITY READ

Mohiniyattam performance at Shukra Auditorium

Dr Rekha Raju, an Indian classical dancer and teacher, will perform a solo Mohiniyattam dance presentation using compositions of various contemporary poets at Shukra Auditorium in Malleswaram West on March 30 at 6pm. Having travelled across the world to spread Mohiniattam as an art form, including countries like the United Kingdom, she has performed in over 2000 shows and given over 75 lecture demonstrations. The Central Sangeet Natak Academy under Government of India awarded her the Ustad Bismillah Khan Award for overall contribution to the field of art. Tickets priced at `250 on bookmyshow.com.

Kathak dance debut this weekend

Articulate Trust for Arts, dedicated to promoting classical dance forms, is all set to present the Kathak Rangapravesh (dance debut) of Kumari Poojashree CG on March 30, 2024, at ADA Rangamandira, JC Road. Following years of rigorous and meticulous training under Guru Mysore B Nagaraj at Articulate Dance Studios, the Rangapravesh will mark Poojashree's launch into the professional performance arena of Kathak.

XPRESS FOCUS SMD INITIATIVE

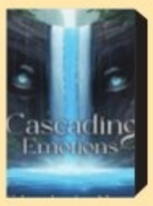
Science Behind the World's Best Idlis

On this World Idli Day, G.L.N Murthy, Chief Manufacturing Officer, iD Fresh Food, uncovers the secret — backed by science — behind iD's fluffy and tasty idlis. While there can be no "secret ingredient" that works its magic like love, the indisputable fact is that idli batter is ultimately, the key factor that determines how yummy your home-cooked idlis turn out to be.

Here are some interesting facts and pro tips to help you get the batter right for those oh-so-perfect idlis:

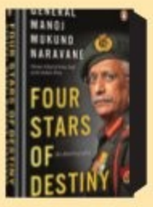
- The ideal ratio of parboiled rice to black gram (urad dal) in the idli batter is 3.5:1. While it's advisable to use only fresh, high-quality ingredients for making the batter, the choice of rice is particularly important. Rice with high amylose content and high water-binding capacity lends a soft texture to the idlis. The quality of rice also impacts the fermentation process, aroma, and flavour.
- Did you know that the mucilage, arabinogalactans, and globulin in black gram contribute largely to the foamy texture and protein content of the idli batter? In fact, it plays a crucial role in the starch absorption, acidification, and leavening of the batter.
- Fenugreek seeds (methi) and salt are the other vital ingredients in the idli batter. Methi contributes to the microbial community and imparts flavour to the batter, while salt enhances the umami flavours. The ideal composition of these ingredients, along with 3-1/2 part of rice to 1 part of dal is pivotal in the making of the finest idli batter.
- Once you get the ingredients and their compositions right, the next step is to ace the fermentation process. It is a critical stage in the making of the idli batter, as it directly impacts the sensory parameters, including sourness, texture, and flavour. In many ways, the process makes idlis one of the healthiest and not just the most beloved traditional South Indian foods.
- Wondering what happens during fermentation? The microbial community of the idli batter, including lactic acid bacteria (LAB) and yeast, undergoes significant changes. The microbial counts rise, and the acidity of the batter increases, corresponding to a decrease in pH. This leads to the acidification and leavening of the batter.
- Currently, there are ongoing experiments that are looking at various rice and dal combinations to get the softest idlis. Because everybody loves soft, fluffy idlis!

BOOK NOOK



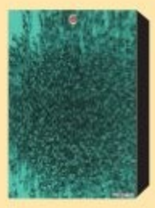
Cascading Emotions
By G Jayashankar Menon

This book is a collection of poems inspired by the author's life experiences over the last two years. It will take you through different emotions as you understand life better, delving into the spiritual side while acknowledging all that the world has to offer.



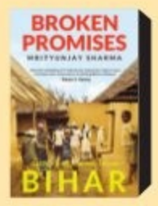
Four Stars Of Destiny: An Autobiography
By General Manoj Mukund Naravane

The book chronicles General Naravane's journey from childhood to becoming the Indian Army Chief. It revolves around the army's culture and shares ideas on how to strengthen the Armed Forces.



Yes, There Will Be Singing
By Hamraaz

It is a poetry collection which portrays the passion and struggle of citizens who stood against the government. It celebrates the courage of people to uphold constitutional democracy.



Broken Promises: Caste, Crime And Politics In Bihar
By Mrityunjay Shah

The story explores how Bihar landed into chaos in the 1990s, an era often called the 'Jungle Raj' years. It examines the socio-political factors that caused the downfall, highlighting the emergence of socialist power and leaders like Lalu Yadav. It is a tale of corruption, crime, and politics.

FAN FRENZY

A Royal Challengers Bengaluru fan gets her face painted with the team colours ahead of the match against Kolkata Knight Riders at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday | **ALLEN EGENUSE J**

QUICKFIX

LOADED SWEET POTATO

INGREDIENTS

- **Sweet potato:** 2
- **Corn flour:** 1 tsp
- **Peri Peri masala:** 1 tsp
- **Oregano:** 1 tsp
- **Mayonnaise:** 1 tsp
- **Salt:** 1 tsp
- **Thousand Island sauce:** 1 tsp
- **Coriander:** 1/2 bunch

METHOD

- Take a pan, add one teaspoon oil to it and heat the pan.
- In a bowl, cut the sweet potato into roundels and add one tsp corn flour to it. Mix well.
- Add the potato to the heated pan and toss well.
- In another bowl, add mayonnaise, thousand island sauce, peri peri powder, oregano, salt,
- Add the fried sweet potato to the mixture. Add coriander to it.
- Serve and enjoy

Contributed by **Sharon Malini,** Hyderabad

NOWSTREAMING

REGIONAL

LOVER

Arun and Divya's six-year relationship starts unraveling as they drift apart, raising the question of whether love can withstand such differences. The film explores the intricacies of modern relationships through a realistic lens.

Cast: Manikandan, Sri Gouri Priya

- **watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

ABRAHAM OZLER

ACP Abraham Ozler, who is struggling with a personal tragedy, is tasked with investigating a strange murder. Soon after he takes up the case, more people are killed. Ozler needs to save another victim before it's too late.

Cast: Jayaram, Anaswara Rajan, Mammootty, Arjun Ashokan, Jagadish

- **watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

FOREIGN

SHIRLEY

In 1972, the first-ever Black congresswoman, Shirley Chisholm, launched a trailblazing campaign to become the president of the United States.

Cast: Regina King, Lance Reddick

- **watch on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix:	₹ 199/month
Prime Video:	₹ 299/month
Jio Cinema:	₹ 999/year
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹ 899/year
Zee5:	₹ 699/year
Viki Rakuten:	₹ 299/month
Aha:	₹ 699/year
SonyLIV:	₹ 299/month

FITBIT

UTTHITA BALASANA
(EXTENDED CHILD POSE)

Utthita Balasana, which is a variation of Balasana (Child Pose), is also called Prasarita Balasana or Wide Child Pose. This restorative pose is a calming one with the wide expansion of the thighs on the floor, bringing the face down which is also considered the fetal position. This pose is a cooling pose after intense Ashtanga and Vinyasa flow.

STEPS

- Sit in Vajrasana (Thunderbolt Pose). Take few breaths.
- Place your buttocks on the heels. Widen your legs.
- Inhale, spread the knees and thighs wide, more than hip distance.
- Place the big toes together, open heels outward. Sit on the heels.
- Inhale, Stretch arms out above your head. Stretch from the hips upwards, exhale, and keep the torso downwards, reach outward on the floor with your arms.
- Place your palms in front of you, keeping the face on the floor.
- The abdomen must press against the thighs or floor. This stretch will automatically bring the chest and face to the floor.
- Once comfortable, take deep breaths pushing the abdomen towards the thighs.
- Exhale, expand your torso and focus on breathing to help increase concentration.
- Stay here for 12 breaths. If one practices this after a yoga session, eight is enough.
- Release the pose and return to Vajrasana.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with any injury to the ankles, shoulders, knees, or wrists, have undergone recent abdominal surgery, hip replacement, or knee surgery, acute arthritis, knee joint pain or rheumatoid arthritis, weak joints, be it ankles or shoulders, later stages of pregnancy, must avoid this.
- Postnatal women need to avoid this pose for 5 weeks.
- Beginners or those who can find this difficulty use props like towels, blankets, and blocks.

BENEFITS

- Sretches the hips, muscles, quadriceps, and calves.
- Tones hamstrings and stretches the back.
- Opens the hips and pelvic muscles. Enhances the hip flexibility, mobility and thoracic cavity.
- Improves mobility of the lower limbs and body posture.
- Energises the body.
- Relaxes the spine, shoulders, neck, head and calms the mind.
- Regulates the heartbeat.
- Stretches the ligaments of the anterior knee.
- Aids in alleviating initial stages of knee pain.
- Alleviates menstrual pain.
- Calms the nervous system by stimulating the parasympathetic nervous.
- Beneficial for anger management.
- Reduces shoulder, upper back, and lower back stiffness.
- Stimulates root and sacral chakras and channelises the prana to the crown chakra gently.
- After training, aids in recovery for athletes, swimmers, advanced yoga practitioners, and marathon runners.
- Balances the emotions.
- Good preparation for deeper hip opening poses.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Break a Leg

Unleash the dancer in you and learn basic footwork, turns and steps to the chart-topping music and beats at this K-pop dance workshop.

WHEN: March 30, 12pm
WHERE: Small World, Koramangala
DETAILS : bookmyshow.com

Melodies & Gazals

Join in for an enchanting evening of ghazals, poetry, and shayari and immerse yourself in the profound verses, celebrating the beauty of Urdu literature

WHEN: March 30, 5pm
WHERE: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar
CALL: 98868 80516

Paws & Poses

Immerse yourself in a unique experience of wellness and joy at this yoga workshop where adorable puppies roam, play, and may even cuddle up on your mat as you flow through poses followed by a soothing Sound Bowl Meditation session.

WHEN: March 30, 8am
WHERE: The Pawsome Camp, Gulakamale
DETAILS : bookmyshow.com

Resin Art

Learn to craft visually striking art pieces using epoxy resin and adorn your walls with your art at this all-materials inclusive workshop.

WHEN: March 30, 2.30pm
WHERE: Paint Cafe Studio, Whitefield
DETAILS : bookmyshow.com

Moulding Clay

Bring your imagination to life with clay, moulding the material into beautiful earthern pieces of art. Go with your loved ones for a reinvigorating experience.

WHEN: March 30, 4pm
WHERE: Lahe Lahe, Kodihalli
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Paint it Away

Make your Easter merrier by painting eggshells at this workshop that lets you take your handiwork home.

WHEN: March 30, 4pm
WHERE: Krust Cafe, Ejipura
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Aromatherapy

Indulge yourself in a sensory experience that promises to wash away your stress and worries through the aroma of essential oils and a professional therapeutic massage.

WHEN: March 30, 4pm
WHERE: Sugar. fit Diabetes Reversal Centre, Malleswaram
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Laugh out Loud

Experience an evening filled with laughter at standup comedian **Anubhav Singh Bassi**'s latest solo set *Kisi Ko Batana Mat.*

WHEN: March 31, 3pm
WHERE: Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan, Vasanth Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

ARTCORNER

A WORLD OF WOMEN

Artist Sooraja KS attempts to depict experiences and feelings that arise from the interior and the external worlds

MAHIMA ANNA JACOB

CE delves into the food traditions associated with Easter, the most holy festival on the Christian calendar

HEAVENLY FEAST

EASTER ranks as the most significant festival in the Christian calendar, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The celebration officially kicks off with Holy Week, but it's after Maundy Thursday that the fervour truly intensifies. Before exploring the numerous traditions linked to Easter, it's essential to understand its origins.

History

In 325 AD, Roman Emperor Constantine and the Council of Nicaea decreed that Easter should always occur on a Sunday. As Christianity spread throughout Europe, it absorbed various pagan practices. The name Easter itself is thought to derive from Eastre, a goddess associated with fertility and spring.

The tradition of Easter eggs appeared in the 13th century, symbolising Christ's emergence from the tomb, with the yolk inside representing life. Initially, these eggs were painted red to symbolise the blood Christ shed on the cross. Activities like egg rolling also gained popularity, with the US's White House lawn hosting such events as early as the 1850s.

Later, the concept of Easter Bunnies too hopped onto the scene as rabbits were traditionally associated with fertility and new life. While these traditions enthused the children, the adults indulged in the humble Easter bread and hot cross buns.

Traditions in India

In India, these practices were not initially adopted. Historian and writer Varghese Angamaly explains that despite common belief, Easter celebrations did not start in the country with the arrival of St Thomas in 52 CE but became prominent after the Portuguese arrived in 1498, introducing more elaborate observances.

"Easter was not observed immediately after the arrival of St Thomas. It was much later. Before the colonial rule, the Lent was followed most strenuously. It was after 1498, with the arrival of the Portuguese, that Easter celebrations became flamboyant," Varghese says.

On food

This is noticeable in the food too. "Before the colonial rule, Christian families in Kerala celebrated Easter with snacks such as achappam and kumbalappam. Appam was an integral part of the festival. After the arrival of the Portuguese, vindaloo became an Easter staple," says Deepa G, assistant professor of history at CAS College, Kannur.

Varghese seconds the significance of appam. "During Pesaha or Maundy Thursday, appam like *Indri appam*, commonly seen in areas like Thrissur, is made with rice flour and *uzhunnu*. It is steamed and made into a rice cake. The second variety called *Kalthappam*, popular in central Travancore regions like Ernakulam, Kottayam and Pala, is made with rice flour, uzhunnu (less quantity) and coconut bits. Both the appams will be decorated with a 'kurthola' shaped as a cross on Maundy Thursday," he says.

On the day, the family members gather at the home of the eldest member, who cuts the rice cake and distributes the pieces. *Pesaha paal*, a concoction of coconut milk, jaggery and sugar, will also be served.

Food traditions

Easter Sunday in Kerala is celebrated with a lavish feast after morning mass, with regional variations in the menu.

For writer and artist Tanya Abraham, who hails from a Latin Catholic family in Fort Kochi, taking part in Easter brunch at her grandmother's place is special. "Though now the celebrations are not as flamboyant, I remember the table being full. There would be all kinds of meat such as pork vindaloo, duck roast, ham, chicken roast, beef (a not-so-spicy beef curry), fresh bread, and sometimes even mulled wine. Our family still upholds this tradition," says Tanya.

Kochi's Luso-Indian families' way of easter celebrations contains mainly pork and beef. Tsarina Abrao Vacha, who hails from a Luso family, reminisces about the preparation on Easter morning. "We don't have the typical palappam or kallappam. We have 'renda'. It has a light brown colour on the border and is soft in the middle. It will be paired with either beef stew or pork stew. The meat has to have bone and the curry will have cabbage, raisins and roasted cashews," she says.

Tsarina also points out Fort Kochi's hyper-local vinegar-laden mustard condiment called *musaadth*. The dish is made by grinding mustard, garlic, ginger, and seasonings with vinegar. "It is paired with pork. This is a single dish. After this, the lunch will consist of rice, pork vindaloo and duck roast. A cucumber salad with salt, sugar, vinegar, onion, squeezed and mixed with coconut milk, and drizzled with coconut oil, makes the Easter lunch complete," Tsarina says.

Thrissur gives importance to pork, fish, beef and chicken. Nisha Joji, a resident here, says most houses in Thrissur break lent with Vattayappam and beef curry. "Churches would be providing this. After that breakfast will be appam and mutton stew. For lunch, rice with pork, beef, prawns, and *manga curry* are preferred," she adds.

In Alappuzha, Fish Molee made with Karimeen (pearl spot) or *paal-pizhinja duck curry* with bread is a must for breakfast, says local resident Anuja Anto. Whereas in Angamaly, restaurant owner, Shiji Shajan talks about chicken taking centre-stage for breakfasts. "In most houses, the spread would be appam, *chicken paal pizhinja* curry and *vattayappam*," she says.

Shiji also highlights the importance of *fish paal pizhinja curry* using eri fish, added with mango. "This is a staple for lunch. In addition to this, *pork koorka* and *pork kaya* is a must-have side dish," she adds.

"Since the 50 days lent is all about abstaining from all kinds of meat, egg, milk, and fish, we welcome Easter Sunday with a heavy breakfast. Appam, chicken stew, pork bake and banana fritters will be common items on the table. We also pop champagne after breakfast. Lunch would be just one dish. The most preferred is mutton biryani," says Kottayam native Sareeka John.

Laly Sunil of Wayanad says the most important food of the day would be *kallappam* and pork roast. "*Kozhiyum pidiyum* is another option. Lunch is not set in a grand manner. It'll be either biryani or fried rice. If meals are opted for, then fish is a must. Usually, it is pomfret and king fish that's used," she says.

DUCK ROAST

INGREDIENTS

- **Duck:** 2 kg skin on, cut into 8 pieces
- **Grind to a paste:**
- **Shallots:** 20
- **Garlic cloves:** 6
- **Ginger:** 1/2 inch piece
- **Green chilli** (de-seeded): 2
- **Turmeric:** 1/4 tsp
- **Pepper:** 3 tbsp
- **Cinnamon powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **Clove powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Jeera :** 1/4 tsp
- **Mint leaves:** 15
- **Lime juice:** 3 tbsp
- **Ghee :** 2 tbsp
- Salt to taste
- **Coconut oil:** 1 cup
- Fried onions, cashews, raisins and potato wedges to serve

METHOD

Marinate the duck with the ground ingredients for 6 hours or overnight in the fridge. Heat the coconut oil in a wide pan. Arrange the duck in a single layer, skin side down and brown well on both sides. Pour about a cup of hot water, and shake the pan well. Then cover and cook on a low flame – this could take an hour or more – till the meat is well cooked. This is a semi-dry dish, so evaporate the gravy till just enough remains to coat the pieces. Tip out the excess oil. Garnish with the fried onions, cashews, raisins, potato wedges and serve.

EASTER BREAD

INGREDIENTS

- **Milk:** 215 ml
- **Butter unsalted:** 60 g
- **Brown sugar:** 40 g
- **Instant yeast:** 4 g
- **Eggs:** 2
- **Salt:** 8 gm
- **Refined wheat flour:** 400 gm
- **Cinnamon powder:** 1 tsp
- **Clove powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Nutmeg powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Turmeric:** 1/2 tsp
- **Raisins:** 60 gm
- **Cashews, chopped:** 60 gm
- **Egg yolk:** 1

METHOD

Heat the milk. Add butter & brown sugar, mix well and maintain a lukewarm temperature. Now whisk in the eggs, yeast, and salt. In a mixing bowl add flour, spice powders & turmeric. Pour the liquid mixture and knead in a mixer or by hand for about 10 minutes till smooth. Now add the raisins & cashews and knead for 2 more minutes. Put the dough into an oiled bowl, cover and let rise for about 75 minutes. Punch down and shape as desired. Leave to rise again for another 40 minutes. Mix egg yolk with a tablespoon of water and brush over the dough. Bake at 190°C for about 25 minutes till the top turns golden.

Recipes by: Tsarina Abrao Vacha

NUGGETS

Special 'aamlicious thali' from Apr 1

Rajdhani, a pan-India restaurant is serving its seasonal 'aamlicious thali' starting from April 1 till June 24. The thali includes over 30 Rajasthani and Gujarati delicacies available on a rotational basis. It will have mango-special dishes like mango puranpoli, mango dal dhokli, mango jalebi, kairi bhel and more. Prices start at ₹649.

Curated menu for Easter Sunday

Gourmet restaurant Lazy Suzy, Indiranagar has brought out a special menu with fresh, seasonal flavours for the Easter festivities. The offerings include chilled mango and milk chocolate cheesecake served with a raspberry coulis drizzle, fresh strawberry panna cotta accompanied with strawberries, zesty lime and chilli sauce, and New York cheesecake served with fresh mango, strawberries and a mint salsa. Prices start at ₹350.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GURURAJ ANADINNI** S/o Govindarao, residing at No.24, B-118, Shirke Apartment, KHB Colony, Near Ganesh Temple, Kengeri Upanagar, Kengeri, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560060, India declare that below mentioned names **GURURAJ ANADINNI** and **GURURAJ** are refers to me only and one and the same person's names only vide affidavit dated 26-03-2024 sworn to before Smt. Gangambike. H.S. Advocate and Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sagar. R., S/o. Ranganna T. B., aged about 37 years, residing at No. 155. Thorehalli, Madenahalli, Gubbi, Tumkur District, Karnataka 572216. today at Bengaluru, I declare that my name is **Sagar R. @ Lokesh** is one and the same. By oversight in my daughter's birth certificate, father's name is mentioned as **Lokesh T.M.,** vide affidavit dated 28/3/2024 sworn to before D.S. Chandrakanth advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Smt. ASHA,** W/o. Sri. Satish Kumar Parasmal, Aged about 42 years, Residing at No. 268, 4th Main, 40 feet Road, West of Chord Road, Manjunatha Nagar, Bengaluru-560010. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'ASHA KUMARI JAIN'** to **"ASHA",** vide Affidavit dated 27.03.2024 Sworn before Advocate and Notary L. Veena, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **RAJIV LOCHAN & POOJA KAMALAKAR,** Both are R/at No. 2227, 12th Cross, Kumar Swamy Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560078, have changed our Son's name from **ADVAYAA** (old name) to **ADVAYAA IYENGAR** (new name) for all purposes vide affidavit dated 19-02-2024 sworn before Notary B.K.R. Krishnamurthy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **S. SAANJ JAIN,** D/o. Sri. Satish Kumar Parasmal, Aged about 19 years, Residing at No. 268, 4th Main, 40 feet Road, West of Chord Road, Manjunatha Nagar, Bengaluru-560010. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'SAANJ'** to **"S. SAANJ JAIN",** vide Affidavit dated 25.03.2024 Sworn before Advocate and Notary L. Veena, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KSHAMA M N** D/o Nandakumar M, R/at Flat No.213, 4th Main, 6th Cross, Near NCBS Gate, Rajeev Gandhi Nagar, 2nd Phase, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore North, Bengaluru - 560097, have changed my name from **KSHAMA M N** (old name) to **KSHAMA NANDAKUMAR** (new name) for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 29-03-2024 sworn before Notary K.V. Nanjaiah, Bengaluru.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUBHASH KUMAR HEERACHAND** S/o **Heerachand,** R/at No.113/3, 2nd Floor, Diagnol Road, Near Sajjan Rao Circle, V.V.Puram, Bengaluru- 560004 have changed my name to **SUBHASH KUMAR JAIN** vide affidavit dated: 28/3/2024 Before Notary **K.C.Gowthami** Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **JITENDRA SHREEKRISHNA UPADHYA,** S/o Sri Shreekrishna Upadhya, age 53 years, R/at Flat No. 702, Pratham Casa Serene, SM Road, Opp. to Krishna Convention Hall, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560 057 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **JITENDRA SHRIKRASHNA UPADHYA S/o SHRIKRASHNA UPADHYA** and **JITENDRA SHREEKRISHNA UPADHYA S/o SHREEKRISHNA UPADHYA** are one and the same and refers to me only, my correct name is **JITENDRA SHREEKRISHNA UPADHYA S/o SHREEKRISHNA UPADHYA,** vide affidavit dated 25th March 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. HEMALATHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PURUSHOTHAM PRASANNA H.A,** S/o Appannacharya H P, age 42 years, R/at No. 113/16, 1st Main Road, 16th Cross, behind TTD Temple, Vayyalikaval, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 008 do hereby declare that I have changed my daughters name from **MANUSHI H.P.** to **SAMVEDA VIHANSHI,** henceforth she shall be known and called as **SAMVEDA VIHANSHI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 6th March 2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary **R. SULAKSHANA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NIKKHAT FARHEEN AZEEM,** D/o Masthan Azeem, age 28 years, R/at #6, 3rd Floor, MVR Block, 2nd Cross, JC Nagar, Bengaluru-560 006 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NIKKHAT RIZWAN SAYED** to **NIKKHAT FARHEEN AZEEM,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **NIKKHAT FARHEEN AZEEM** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 26th March 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MEER HASSAN** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Koppad Mahadevi** (Old Name), D/o. Yallappa, aged about 46 years, R/at No. 013, Deccan Arcade 2, BEML Layout, 5th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru- 560 098, I have changed my name as **MAHADEVI Y KOPPAD** (New Name) vide affidavit dated 22.03.2024 sworn before Advocate & Notary Ravi, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHRUTHI H K,** resident of No. 643, 68th Cross, 14th Main, 1st Stage, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore South, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 078, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHRUTI H K** to **SHRUTHI H K** vide affidavit dated 28.03.2024 sworn to before Mamatha N.K., Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Naveen, aged about 43 years, S/o. Mr. R Subramani Raju, R/at #7, 6th Cross, Near Kushalappa Auto Stand, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, R T Nagar, Bengaluru-560032. Karnataka, India. I state that I have changed my name from **NAVEEN** to **NAVEEN S.** Vide affidavit dated 28.03.2024. Sworn before Advocate & Notary Indira S S, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GANGADHARAN, resident of No.180/1, 3rd Cross, 8th Main, Pramod Layout, Pantharapalya, Bengaluru-560039, have changed my name to GANGADHARAN KRISHNASWAMY** Vide Affidavit dated 28.03.2024 sworn before advocate and notary Mamatha .N.K. Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VENKATESH RAO V** Residing at No.6, 'Thringada Vatika', 6th 'B' Cross, Jakkur Layout, Jakkur, Yelahanka, Bengaluru – 560064., have changed my minor son's name from **VENKATESH JADHAV SHIVANSH** to **(NEW NAME) KARAN SHREEVATHSA VENKATESH JADHAV** vide affidavit dated 12.03.2024 sworn before Notary B.Hanumantharaya Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MUNNI DEVI** mother of SUNIL KUMAR resident of SMQ No. 139/3, 6th Camp, Air Force Station, Jalahalli East, Bangalore 560014, have changed my name from **MUNNI DEVI** to **MUNNA DEVI,** vide Affidavit Dated 28-03-2024Before Advocate and Notary **S PRAKASH,** Reg No.7865/09 Bangalore, Karnataka.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRIYA ABRAHAM,** aged 44 years, W/o.M. Sunil Kumar R/O. No.3/2, 1st Cross, Nanjappa Layout, Adugodi, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru 560030 have changed my name as **PRIYA PAULINE ABRAHAM** vide affidavit dated 28/3/2024 before Notary **L. GOPALAKRISHNA,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PALLAVI TIWARI,** D/o Rajesh Kumar Tiwari, age 26 years, R/at No. 333, CHS-707, 5th Cross, 4th Phase, Durgamba Temple Road, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560 064 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PALLAVI TIWARI** to **SHALINI OJHA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHALINI OJHA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28th March 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **PUTTARAMAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MADHURA S** W/o. Prashanth, aged about 38 years, R/at. No. 96, 3rd Cross, Srikantapura, Anchepalya, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560073, do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **MANTHAN P** to **MANTHAN VISHNU P.,** vide affidavit dated 28.03.2024, sworn to before Puttaramaiah, Notary, Govt. of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Service No.17002313W Rank-Nk Name: NAKIYA MAHESHBHAI Working in 515 Army Base workshop, Bengaluru R/o. Digsar, Ta: Muli, District: Surendra Nagar, Gujarat -363510, I have changed my minor son's name from **PARVRAJ** to **NAKIYA PARVRAJ MAHESHBHAI,** vide affidavit dt:29.03.2024 before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mrs.**THEJASWINI. M.C.** aged about 48 years, D/o. Late Mr.G.E. Veerabhadrappa, residing at No.303, Aishwarya Bliss Apartment, 7th Cross, Sarakki Main Road, Near Indira Gandhi Circle, Shakambarinagar, Bangalore-560078, have changed my name to **THEJASWINI.G.V** Vide Affidavit dated 25.03.2024 sworn before advocate and notary R.T. Krieshna Murthy, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NUSRATH BEGUM AZEEMUDDIN,** aged 53 years, W/o. Azeemuddin Basheer Ahmed, Residing at No. 25/47/1, Nusrath Manzil, 2nd Cross, Tilak Nagar, Popular Colony, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to **NUSRATH BEGUM** vide affidavit dated: 26.03.2024 before notary B.M. CHANDRASHEKAR, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **(OLD NAME) GOPALDAS SITARAM SONI** Residing at No. 20, Ground Floor, Ram Rao Main Layout, 6th Cross, Laxmi Road, Shanthi Nagar, Bangalore-560027, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) GOPALDAS SITARAM SONI** to **(NEW NAME) GOPALDAS SONI** vide affidavit dated 27.03.2024 sworn before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KASTHURI .M,** D/o Maranna, R/at Swamiji Hospital near Tumkur Road, Pavagada Town, Pavagada Post, Tumkur District, Bengaluru-561 202 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KASTHURI** to **KASTHURI .M,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **KASTHURI .M** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 27th March 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B. HANUMANTHARAYA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MULLA RAZEEYA ABUTALIB,** W/o. Abutalib Abumahammad Mulla, aged 47 years, R/o. No. 318, Ground Floor, 7th Main, 4th Cross, Viveknagar, Bengaluru 560047, have changed my name to **ZULEKHA ABUTALIB MULLA** vide Affidavit dt. 25/3/2024 before Notary **S. SAMUEL SOLOMON,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHANTHALA SHANBHAG,** Wife of Sri. Raghunath Prabhu .B, Aged about 27 years, have changed my names as **B. SHANTHALA PRABHU** vide affidavit dated 28-03-2024 duly sworn to before the Notary Public, **Mrs. P. Anuradha,** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **GEETHA .R,** D/o. Ramachandra Reddy .R, Aged about 47 years, R/at # 102, Mega Orchid, E.C.C. Road, Deens School, Pattandur Agrahara, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560 066, do hereby declare that, my name is entered as **GEETHA SUDHAKAR REDDY** in my Passport and in my Aadhaar Card, SSLC Marks Card, PAN Card, Election Voter ID Card my name is entered as **GEETHA .R** both the said names pertaining to one and the same person that is me only. Vide affidavit dated 27.03.2024 sworn to before N. Srinivasa, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SUNIL T,** S/o. Thippeswamy .D, Aged about 29 years, presently residing at Room No. MMA 3, 3rd Floor, Opp. Biocon, MM Tower, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Rural - 560 100, permanent resident of Kamandalagondi, Chikkamallenahole, Davanagere, Karnataka - 577 528, today at Bengaluru, do hereby declare that my correct name is **SUNIL T.** I state that **SUNIL T** and **SUNEELA T** both the names belongs to me only. Vide affidavit dated 26.03.2024 sworn to before Anitha Bai, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Veena M, W/o Mahesh.N, Residing at No.03, 1st Cross, RRV Layout, Varanasi Main Road, Jenkethimmananahalli, Near Blue Lotus Apt., Varanasi, Bangalore-560036 have changed my name to DHANYA MAHESH** vide affidavit dated: 28.03.2024 before notary Anitha Bai, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Syed Dasthagir,** S/o Syed Ghouse, R/a. No.163/1, Govindapura, Papanna, BLDG Line, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name from **Syed Mujaheed to SYED DASTHAGIR.** Vide affidavit dated 09-01-2024, sworn before notary G. Dayananda

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KAUP KARTHIK HEGDE** S/o.Kaup Rathnakar Hegde, aged about 34 years, currently R/at D4-174, 17th Floor, PropertyNo.82/820, SNN Raj Etternia, Off: Sarjapura Road, HaralurRoad, Silver Country Road, Parappana Agrahara, Kudlu,Bangalore-560068 has changed my name as **KAUP KARTHIK HEGDE,** instead of Karthik Hegde & K Karthik Hegde, vide Affidavit dated 18/03/2024 sworn by me before Hon'ble 24th ACMM Bangalore for change of my name, in fact earlier my name was entered in my NSDL Account, Bank Accounts, Demat Account Pan Card and Educational Records as Karthik Hegde &K Karthik Hegde. Herein after my correct name is **KAUP KARTHIK HEGDE,** for all my correspondences.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RENUKAMMA DODDA THAMAIAH,** D/o Late Dodda Thamaiah, R/at No. 133, Kalkere, Horamavu Post, Bangalore-560 043 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RENUKAMMA** to **RENUKAMMA DODDA THAMAIAH,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **RENUKAMMA DODDA THAMAIAH** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 28th March 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **UDAY KUMAR .K** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **INDUMATHI UMASHANKAR,** D/o. Maridevaru and W/o. Umashankar Aghalaya Boregowda, Aged about 39 years, residing at # 473, 16th Cross, BEML Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, W.O.C. Road, Bangalore - 560 079, do hereby declare that **INDUMATHI .M** and **INDUMATHI UMASHANKAR** both the names are one and the same and belongs to me only. Vide affidavit dated 10.11.2021 sworn to before Ratna .N, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ANUSHA HEGDE,** R/at Dundlanamane Mundlanamane Po, Siris Devanmane, Uttara Kannada-581403, have changed my name to **ANUSHA MABLESHWARA HEGDE,** vide affidavit dt:28.03.2024 before Notary H.G. Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SIDDHI RAMACHANDRA NAYAK,** C/o. Ramachandra Nayak, aged about 20 years, residing at No. C 0303, Brigade Meadows, Kanakapura Road, Opp. Anjaneya Temple, Saluhunsase, Udayapura Post, Bengaluru District, Bangalore-560082, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SIDDHI RAMACHANDRA NAYAK** to **SIDDHI NAYAK,** vide affidavit dated 27.03.2024, sworn to before Anitha Bai, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SRIDHAR MUNIYAPPA** aged about 38 years, resident at No. 28 Manjunatha Nilaya RMV 2nd Stage, Byrappa Layout, Sanjay Nagar, Nagashettihalli, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560094, have changed my name to **SRIDHAR GOWDA** vide affidavit dated: 29.03.2024 before advocate and notary G.R. Ravichandra Reddy, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIVARATHNA, aged about 59 years, W/o Narasimhaiah, Residing at No. 638, 7th Cross, 8th Main Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, T. Dasarahalli,Bangalore -5600-57, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **SHIVARATHNAMMA** to **SHIVARATHNA,** vide affidavit dated 27-03-2024 sworn before notary Anuradha D. Bangalore.

AN ANGST-FUELLED ACTION FILM WITH FAMILIAL BONDS AT ITS CORE

A SHARADHAA

YUVA
Director: Santhosh Ananddram
Cast: Yuva Rajkumar, Sapthami Gowda, Achyuth Rao, Hitha Chandrashekar, Kishore, and Gopal Krishna Deshpande

EVERY debutant's maiden film serves as a litmus test, and for Yuva Rajkumar, hailing from the Rajkumar clan, the weight of legacy looms large as he steps into the cinematic world. Backed by the reputable Hombale Films and guided by director Santhosh Ananddram, the stage seemed impeccably set for a triumphant launch. But amidst all the promise, does *Yuva* truly deliver the apt inaugural act for Yuva Rajkumar?

The film kicks off amidst the pulsating energy of a college campus. Reflecting the protagonist's rebellious streak, every scene is filled with our hero riding bikes, puffing cigarettes, and downing beers. The action takes precedence and very few dialogues are heard, particularly in the initial fifty minutes. Within the confines of Mangaluru's college life, a fierce conflict brews between local boys and hostel students, morphing into a full-fledged gang war. Yuva finds himself ensnared in this web of violence, a victim of ego clashes. The hostility within the hostel intensifies, with Yuva's girlfriend Siri (Sapthami Gowda), who is also studying engineering, becoming a target. While the action sequences add vigour to the narrative, they fail to elucidate the underlying reasons behind the tumultuous gang wars, leaving a void in the storyline. Action choreographer Arjun Raj's task becomes paramount, requiring him to infuse each fight sequence with thematic significance to propel the plot forward. It isn't until the introduction song, *Obbane Shiva*, which appears roughly at the 45th minute, that we are offered a glimpse into Yuva's background, depicting strained familial relations typical of many youths.

In essence, *Yuva* straddles a precarious line between the first and second half of the film, tethered together only by the glimpse of Yuva's father (Achyuth Kumar), who is seen at college premises, berating his son for not living up to expectations. There is also a hint of a sports-centric background, with Veeranna Doddmane (Kishore), the wrestling coach training Yuva, being in the dock for having taken a bribe. The story mainly gains momentum in the second half. As Yuva returns home after completing his engineering degree, he is confronted with the stark reality of his father's disappearance, driven underground by mounting debts. On the other side, he is banned from wrestling due to match-fixing allegations. Yuva, who grapples with the weight of familial responsibility, shouldering his duties as a son, takes up the humble role of a food delivery boy, he contends with relentless harassment from creditors seeking repayment of his father's debts. As the film progresses, we are given a close-up look at the life of food delivery boys in general and the humiliations they face both in and out of their work. The narrative pivots on Yuva's quest to find his missing father and alleviate the burdens weighing on his family, including his supportive sister (Hitha Chandrashekar). Amongst all this, will he strive to fulfil his aspirations of returning to the world of wrestling? *Yuva* serves as a gritty exploration of a youth's journey from being an angry young youth during college, navigating ego clashes, to taking up family responsibilities. Santhosh Ananddram has taken ample space and time, to elevate Yuva's role as a mass hero. The director has made Yuva Rajkumar convey more through subtle gestures and expressions, relying less on words and more on the language of his eyes and body, amidst rigorous action sequences, bombarding at various intervals. Santhosh's signature style comes through in the second half, where family values are highlighted, paralleling multiple episodes such as finding the missing father, turning into a delivery boy, the quest to be part of wrestling, and shouldering responsibility. One may wonder why Santhosh never found much space for humour, which would have added a refreshing essence. Yuva Rajkumar in his debut finds himself immersed in an abundance of action-packed scenes and gets an opportunity to showcase his dancing skills, and little into wrestling as well. In certain scenes, particularly in the songs where he engages in exercises or whether it is the dance moves, Yuva Rajkumar's mannerism echoes his uncle, Puneeth Rajkumar. Yuva Rajkumar, who has room for improvisation, a trait that is likely to be explored further by the actor.

RATING 3/5

Sapthami Gowda, as a love interest, plays an important role as she becomes a pillar of strength, standing by Yuva through thick and thin. However, her presence is minimal in the latter part of Yuva's journey. Achyuth Kumar has a strong role to play as the father, and he portrays it well, especially in scenes where he witnesses his son's win at the ring, evoking emotions. Sudharani's presence is felt, but Hitha's role is focused. Kishore's portrayal as a coach is perfect, yet it feels like there needs to be more impact. Accompanied by Ajaneesh's music, which harmonises seamlessly with the narrative, however, with the exception of 'Appuge,' song, the tracks do not enhance the story. While cinematographer Shreesha Kuduvalli captures Yuva's character essence, up and close and Achyuth Kumar's emotive expressions, his work on the college scenes and aerial shots is impressive.

Yuva serves as a gritty exploration of a young man's journey. While it may slightly falter in its execution in parts, the film's sincerity and earnestness ultimately shine through. The simple yet emotionally touching ending, punctuated by a poignant moment featuring Puneeth Rajkumar, strikes a chord, underscoring the enduring themes of redemption and familial bonds. In summary, *Yuva* speaks louder in angst-fueled action, echoing family bonds.

summary, *Yuva* speaks louder in angst-fueled action, echoing family bonds.

THĀRIĪ
Direction: Siddhu Puranchandra
Cast: Mamatha Rahuth, Rohith Rangaswamy, Sudha Prasanna, Bhavani Prakash, Dr. Suresh Kottyan, Baby Nishita, Vijayalakshmi, Sudha Prasanna, and Pramila Subrahmanyam

RATING 2.5/5

Raw truths of gender dynamics and maternal love

A SHARADHAA

Technological advancements have done very little to change the social stigma around a girl child in a family. The stigmatic issue is still deeply ingrained in our society, despite the evolution of technology and the modern world. Siddhu Puranchandra's *Tharini* serves an insightful exploration of the subject that delves into the complexities of gender in this day and age, particularly in terms of how technology shapes human understanding. The evocative film prompts us to ponder the ethical dilemmas arising from these advancements, urging us to confront the moral paradoxes they present.

Director Siddhu's film sheds light on the distressing problem of female foeticide, a matter of great importance still making the headlines. In *Tharini*, he creates a story that feels real, avoiding sensationalism and clichés, while presenting a genuine look at the challenges in our society and inviting the audience to see them for what they truly are.

At the core of the film lies a narrative that delves into the impact of gender determination, which seems to decide a family's destiny. As the protagonist grapples with the revelation of his unborn child's gender, audiences are drawn into the complexity of his moral dilemma. Mamatha Rahuth's portrayal of the resolute mother, wrestling with the uncertain future of her daughter, connects deeply, and she imbues her performance with a blend of strength and vulnerability. With each scene, Mamatha carries the emotional weight of the story, offering an exploration of love and fierce determination that bind a family in the face of societal expectations and personal struggles.

While a part of *Tharini* addresses gender roles, the film also emphasises the strong bond between mother and child. Even for the man, it is a child who changes the whole perspective of a girl child. Made with a shoestring budget, the film serves as a reminder of the complexities of the human experience and the need to approach it with an open heart and a sense of contemplation.

Tharini has a solid supporting cast that includes Rohith, Sudha Prasanna, Bhavani Prakash, Dr. Suresh Kottyan, Baby Nishita, and Vijayalakshmi. The film might not suit everyone's taste and sensibilities, but it still leaves an impact on those who are open to confronting its raw, unflinching truths.

Godzilla and Kong battle bad writing and barely win

PRASHANTH VALLAVAN

GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE
Director: Adam Wingard
Cast: Rebecca Hall, Brian Tyree Henry, Dan Stevens

FOR all the thrills, pleasures and delectable goofiness inherent in a Kaiju film, the problem has always been the human characters. But we understand the mechanism of storytelling so we do not complain when the scene cuts away from Godzilla aglow with rage and radiation to puny little human characters talking about their feelings or whatever. For some reason, *Godzilla x Kong:* The New Empire amplifies this shortcoming of its genre by making the giant monsters as human as their human characters, which ironically increases the goofiness, and renders it somewhat enjoyable. However, the ecstatic feeling of watching giant, other-worldly creatures, these forces of nature humbling all of humanity with a single stride, is supplanted with an action film full of overgrown circus-trained animals. The only exception to this seems to be Godzilla—who feels like a proper monster, but our favourite radioactive Kaiju is relegated to an extended cameo appearance, with barely anything to do until the climax kicks in.

At the beginning of the film, we see Kong going through everyday life in his new home, the Hollow Earth. He goes through the regular grind like an unemployed bachelor, has dental issues, and hunts for food only to slouch back in his cave soon after. The anthropomorphization is only punched up even more when we are introduced to a mini-Kong and the father-son relationship between Kong and his new son is explored through entertainingly cheesy scenes. However, in the beginning, Kong yearns to find members of his own species, a longing mirrored in the Iwi girl Jia, who also feels out of place in her new home at the Monarch base, where she lives with her adopted mom Dr. Ilene Andrews. Smart writing choices like character arcs mirroring each other are all effectively ruined when the film decides to over-explain these nuances through unbearably simplistic expository dialogues. Even when the camera is panning away to show us something else, we still hear the characters rushing through the plot points. These expositions are not annoying because they condescend us but it is the audacity to think the story is complicated enough that we need to be spoon-fed these details. While these are run-of-the-mill blockbuster sci-fi/fantasy issues, the most irredeemable part of the film is Dan Stevens' Trapper. While Brian Tyree Henry's streamer stereotype and Rebecca Hall's scientist/mother character are no less annoying, Stevens' hippie Titan-veterinarian is instantly hateable on account of how hard the film tries to make us like him. Rock music, flying skills, chilled-out attitude, flirting with the female lead; they try everything in the book to make him look cool. However, we hope it is all just a red herring and that some Hollow Earth creature might bite off his head out of nowhere in a jump-scare fashion—that sadly never happens.

RATING 2.5/5

With all these issues you wonder what emboldened the filmmakers to make this many poor choices. It is possible that they thought if the Titan fights were extravagant enough the audience would be satisfied and forgive the other shortcomings, and hence decided to focus less on the writing. In which case, their calculations are right because the scenes where the Titans clash with each other are wonderfully excessive that we cannot complain that the film gave us anything lesser than what we wanted. The film definitely could have given us a lot more but a WWE-esque zero-gravity fight between two Kaiju teams is a glorious payoff indeed. The last act of the film goes full throttle with its Kaiju madness but it hardly feels like Titans fighting. The sense of dread present in the previous films is absent here and is instead replaced with unapologetic Titan-on-Titan action. The Monsterverse franchise finally embraces the goofiness of its genre but this tonal pivot comes at the cost of weak storytelling.

Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire is best enjoyed with a group of friends who understand why it is awesome to watch a giant ape take down a lizard the size of a skyscraper with a suplex move and then two scenes later they shake hands like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Carl Weathers from Predator, to take down a common enemy. And if you do have to endure 'plot' and human 'characters' to get to these glorious action sequences, then so be it.

JON BATISTE TO COMPOSE THE SCORE FOR AND STAR IN *SNL 1975*

CE FEATURES

SINGER-songwriter Jon Batiste has signed up as score composer and actor for Jason Reitman's upcoming film, which chronicles the behind-closed-doors events leading up to the Saturday Night Live premiere. Besides composing the score for the film, Batiste will appear in it as singer-keyboardist Billy Preston, the first guest of the show from the music industry. The film with the working title *SNL 1975* stars Gabriel LaBelle as Saturday Night Live creator Lorne Michaels, Rachel Sennott as SNL writer Rosie Shuster, and Cooper Hoffman as erstwhile NBC executive Dick Ebersol.

Gil Kenan and Reitman wrote the *SNL 1975* script based on the interviews they had with the show's scribes, cast, and crew regarding its launch almost 50 years ago. Reitman, Kenan, Peter Rice, and Jason Blumenfeld are producing the film, while JoAnn Perritano and Erica Mills are its executive producers.